MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 APRIL 1981

Iran

Khomeyni Message, Appointment--In a message to the nation on the anniversary of the Islamic Republic, broadcast textually by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni asserted that Iran is united in word and aim in confronting its foes and claimed that the Iraqi Government is "clutching at straws" to extricate itself from the "trap" it has fallen into. Regarding Iran's internal affairs, Khomeyni again notified armed opposition groups that they will be granted immunity from prosecution if they hand in their weapons and express "repentance." Noting with approval the recent reduction in expressions of opposition and differences, Khomeyni called on people to "continue along this path" and to refrain from voicing or "fanning" differences. He also repeated his call for public speakers and writers to avoid divisive remarks. Khomeyni expressed concern that some clergymen running the courts, the Islamic revolution committees and public prosecution offices have tarnished the reputation of the clergy by their behavior, and he called on the judiciary to investigate the courts and remove "incompetent judges and deviant prosecutors." He also called on the revolutionary guards commanders to prevent their men from interfering in matters beyond their jurisdiction.

Ayatollah Khomeyni also issued a decree, broadcast textually by the radio, appointing Interior Minister Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani as his representative on the three-man commission to investigate and remove differences among leading officials. The decree called on the representative to investigate infringements on the lawful rights of each official, asked him to review the role of the mass media in this connection and noted that none of the three representatives may publicly express a personal view on the committee's work.

Bani-Sadr on War Decisions--President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr issued a statement, broadcast textually by Tehran radio, reminding all government bodies that all publicity activities, views, proposals, political projects relating to the Iran-Iraq war or any "other step" in this connection that could have "worldwide effect" must be discussed and approved by the Supreme Defense Council. Bani-Sadr said that despite Ayatollah Khomeyni's 16 March directives, "some" have continued to disregard the authority of the Supreme Defense Council and have expressed "certain views" and issued "certain orders" concerning the war that have bypassed "legal procedures." Bani-Sadr stressed that any decision adopted by the Supreme Defense Council must be "communicated for implementation" by himself, the armed forces commander in chief.

Rally Resolution--The participants in an Islamic Republic anniversary rally held in Tehran's Azadi Square issued a resolution broadcast by Tehran radio that called on the courts to "deal fiercely" with "counterrevolutionaries," condemned the "plot to isolate the clergy" and requested that clergymen maintain a "permanent presence" in all political, economic and social fields. The resolution called on officials to implement Khomeyni's 16 March directives aimed at promoting unity. It also reiterated the necessity of "exporting" the Islamic Revolution to other Muslim nations.

Bakhtiar Interview--The clandestine Radio Iran broadcast the text of an interview by Shahpur Bakhtiar with the London-based magazine PAYAM in which the former prime minister said he is doing his best to unite and coordinate all opponents of the current Iranian regime. His movement would eradicate "all traces and marks of the clerical regime," he said, and return Iran to the 1906 Constitution. He "decisively condemned" Iraq's attack on Iran and dismissed the idea of a military coup in Iran.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Good Offices Committee--Riyadh radio reported that Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure, chairman of the Islamic Conference good offices committee, revealed that in light of the committee's recent visit to Iran and Iraq, it now proposes that another committee be established, including representatives from both sides, which will make a fresh study of

the border problem and reach an agreement on it. The problem of the water and land borders, particularly the Shatt al-'Arab, is the basic problem between the two countries, he said. Sekou Toure also said that although the good offices committee will now disperse, its spokesman, Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti, will continue shuttle diplomacy on behalf of the committee.

Saddam Husayn speech--In a speech to People's Army fighters, reported by INA, President Saddam Husayn said that Iraq will not be forcibly removed from its battlefront positions and will be budged only if Iran recognizes Iraqi and Arab rights. Only political means, not warfare, are open to the Iranians, he declared.

Military Situation--An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by INA, claimed that Iraqi aircraft downed an Iranian F-14 fighter in a dogfight over Ahvaz. It also reported heavy firing on Iranian positions around Abadan in which 26 Iranians were killed. Tehran radio reported intense artillery and mortar battles in the Meymak and Gilan-e Gharb regions. Quoting a military commander, the radio also reported that Iranian forces control all the hills along the Nowsud front, having forced Iraqi troops to move back as far as 6 km from the border.

Iraqi Arms Purchase

Iraqi Statement--Commenting on Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat's disclosure that Egypt has sold military equipment to Iraq, an INA political editor has stressed that the sale was a "purely commercial operation." In a statement carried by INA, he emphasized that the deal will have no effect on Iraq's policy toward Egypt. He pointed out that Iraq's main objective is to supply adequate equipment to the armed forces in their battle against Iran and that in doing so it will deal with any country or source of arms except Israel. Asserting that Iran is also trying to buy arms on both the international and black markets, the political editor said that Iraq tries to prevent such purchases by removing arms from the market and that the deal with Egypt "falls precisely within this framework."

Syrian Reaction--According to Damascus radio, the newspaper TISHRIN has accused the Iraqi regime of "entering the circle of cooperation" with the United States and helping implement U.S. "schemes" in the Middle East. Commenting on the INA political editor's statement on the Egyptian arms sales to Iraq, TISHRIN said that the statement destroyed the "house of cards" of pan-Arabism that Iraq had tried to build with "empty outbiddings" and "allegations." In fact, it said, Iraq has ignored the pan-Arab conflict with Israel and "fabricated" a conflict with Iran to justify its dealings with U.S. "imperialism." A Damascus radio commentary on the arms deal said that As-Sadat's insistence that Iraq send a delegation to Egypt to negotiate the deal was an attempt to make Iraq destroy the Baghdad summit resolutions. In any case, the radio charged, President Saddam Husayn had already violated those resolutions by waging war on Iran rather than on Israel. As-Sadat's supply of arms to Iraq "via Jordan," the commentary added, exposes a new series of "plots" in which Israel, Egypt, Oman, Jordan, Sudan, Iraq and Somalia have formed an alliance under the aegis of the United States.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE PREPARES PROPOSALS

1 Apr Meeting

LD012030 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] Jidda, 1 Apr (SPA)--At noon today the Islamic good offices committee, under the chairmanship of Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure, reviewed the results it had reached in talks with officials in the Iranian and Iraqi capitals during its recent tour aimed at drawing closer the viewpoints of the two sides and to reach a satisfactory solution for the Iraqi-Iranian dispute through peaceful means. The committee arrived in Jidda earlier today at the end of its 3-day tour to Tehran and Baghdad.

Sekou Toure Statement

LD012052 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] After today's meeting of the Islamic good offices committee, Sekou Toure, chairman of the committee and president of Guinea, made a statement in which he reviewed the committee's efforts in Iran and Iraq during its recent tour aimed at bringing about a cease-fire between the two countries and finding a just settlement for the dispute between them.

He said the committee acquainted each country with the other's views, and added that the basic problem between Iraq and Iran is the problem of the water and land borders, particularly the status of Shatt al-'Arab. He said that after studying the results of its tour, the committee proposes the two countries should accept the setting up of a committee in which representatives of both Iran and Iraq will participate, make a fresh study of the border problem and arrive at an agreement on it. He expressed hope that this committee will lead to the reinstating of security and the reestablishment of cooperation between the two countries. The president of Guinea said members of the committee will be returning to their respective countries, while Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Organization Habib Chatti will continue to shuttle between the two countries in the name of the Islamic good offices committee. He added the committee will reconvene in the event of any development which requires it.

Proposals Outlined

LD021026 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0735 GMT 2 Apr 81

[Text] Jidda, 2 Apr (SPA)--The president of Guinea, Ahmed Sekou Toure, chairman of the Islamic good offices committee, has expressed the gratitude and appreciation of the committee to the government of His Majesty King Khalid ibn Abd al-'Aziz and his crown prince for the hospitality and preparations extended to members of the committee during their stay in Saudi Arabia.

President Sekou Toure, in a statement made prior to leaving Jidda today, said that the kingdom extended a great deal to the committee which helped it continuing its good offices. The president of Guinea expressed his hope that the contacts carried out by the committee in Iraq and Iran will lead to steps that will close the differences between them. He said this will be proof that Baghdad and Tehran will continue to comprehend their role to Islamic values and their desire to settle their differences with good will.

The president of Guinea also said that the Islamic committee has delegated Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and Habib Chatti, general secretary of the Islamic Conference, to return to Tehran and Baghdad within the next 48 hours to continue their efforts and to give further information about the proposals submitted by the committee. He explained that the proposals can be summarized as follows:

1. To accept a cease-fire to spare the lives of Muslims and to protect their property, and to form a committee for this purpose and to supervise the cease-fire, under the control of which Islamic forces will operate. Iraq and Iran will be invited to choose the Islamic states that will participate in this force.
2. To set up a committee which will be charged with the tasks of the withdrawal of forces, the demarcation of the international borders of the two countries, and with carrying out a meticulous study of the Shatt al-'Arab problem.
3. To set up a fact-finding Islamic court to apportion blame as to which of the two parties started the war.

President Sekou Toure said that the Islamic committee attaches special importance to the outcome of the mission of 'Yasir Arafat and Habib Chatti. He mentioned that the committee will dispatch an official letter to Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. Sekou Toure expressed the hope that the contacts carried out by the committee in Tehran and Baghdad will lead the two countries to steps bound to ending the dispute and differences between them. He said such steps would be proof that Iran and Iraq will remain faithful to Islamic principles and desire to settle the disputes with good will.

Paper's Optimism

LD301058 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0715 GMT 30 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 30 Mar (SPA)--Under the headline, "In Expectation of a Major Change," the Saudi paper AR-RIYAD writes: A major change will shortly take place in the attitudes of Iraq and Iran. The good offices committee has begun to sense this from the positive stands which both sides have begun to show and from the kingdom's determination to ensure the success of the committee's mission and realize the just claims of both sides. This, the paper says, will mean that any result achieved in the future will not suffer any relapse because they will be founded on the legitimate rights of both parties. However, the committee's mission requires a long-winded exchange, the paper points out.

The paper affirms that there is no room any more for outside solutions since these solutions have failed and have revealed their ambitious nature. Some of those attempting outside solutions have constantly rejoiced at the bloodshed which brings them great material gains in addition to political and strategic gains.

'ARAFAT MEETS CUBAN, INDIAN ENVOYS OVER MEDIATION

JN011700 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has met with the Cuban and Indian ambassadors in Baghdad within the framework of the nonaligned committee's efforts to end the Iraqi-Iranian dispute. WAFA says that this committee will make a new move next week and visit Baghdad and Tehran in order to resume its efforts.

SIGNIFICANCE OF HAIG VISIT, ARABS' RESPONSE VIEWED

JN012148 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1810 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The forthcoming visit of Gen Alexander Haig, U.S. secretary of state, to the area compels Arab press circles and to some extent foreign circles to pose the following questions: What will the Arabs say to Haig on Palestine, its people, their rights and the just solution to the Palestinian cause?

Will they tell him what they had previously told Carter? They told Carter everything. Or will they be more objective and more accurate when they commit themselves in their decisions and stands on the Palestinian cause? The core of the cause and the core of the Arab stands, as we all know, is that no solution, peace or stability in the area can be achieved without the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the PLO. Acknowledging the importance of what is going to be said to the new U.S. secretary of state by those Arabs whom he will meet, there is, however, something more important. That is the capability to convince. This capability cannot take place by means of rhetoric or by highlighting what is wrong or what is right but by putting the U.S. secretary of state before an Arab party, which first of all must respect itself, respect Arab rights and possess the material capability to serve these rights. Above all, this Arab party must possess the capability to adopt an Arab decision which shall put the U.S. secretary of state in a position from which he will not be able to belittle the Arabs and scorn their stands and desires as has been the case during the previous U.S. administrations particularly the administration which brought Reagan, Bush and Haig to power in the United States.

No one asks the Arabs to go begging on behalf of the Palestinians from the United States or any other country. The matter is greater than this. No one pins great hopes on the so-called U.S. ability to provide something for the Palestinians if the United States is subjected to some Arab pressures either. The matter also is far more serious than this. We pin legitimate hopes on something which for us is worth wagering on and which we are working to achieve. This wager is how to make the entire Arab area rise to a level of confrontation of the Zionist and imperialist enemy which enables us to wage the struggle with capability in all fields. This will make the United States and those who are behind it face an Arab wall in facing a cohesive, strong and integrated front which has its defined cause and objectives and the methods which enable it to achieve these objectives. When this takes place, the Palestinian cause, which is the Arabs' primary cause, will triumph and the United States will forsake its traditional dealings with Arabs as a large human mass revolving in the U.S. orbit and having no say whatsoever.

Haig is coming to the area to put the first touches to the new U.S. course, which has an aggressive military nature. That is why the United States is carrying out a more clear-cut sifting operation involving the countries in the Middle East. This sifting will take place on this basis: Those who are with the United States are on its side and those who are not with the United States are its enemies. This clear sifting may in fact be in the interest of this area because it will reduce the various colors which can be found on its map. The sifting will reduce them to only two colors: black and white. On the other hand, the Arabs can define an equitable method for such a sifting by seeing who is with the Palestinian people, revolution and land. Those who are with this are on the Arabs' side. Those who are against all this will be against the Arabs. When the Arabs insist in a responsible and effective manner on this method, they will become great in the eyes of all. They will become great in the eyes of those who despise and do not heed their aspirations. Would the Arabs succeed in imposing this equitable sifting method, given that they have practiced it in all their overt decisions and stands? The answer cannot be a yes or no. This will be determined in the short and the long run by the steadfastness of the Palestinian revolution and that of its allies and masses. As long as this revolution remains strong, deeply entrenched and continues to progress, the final sifting in this area will be made on the bases of Palestine, the rights of its peoples. The sifting will not be on the basis of the interests of the Zionist state and imperialism. The interests of all in the area contradict the interests of imperialism and Zionism. That is why the Palestinian cause--who is with it and who is against it--will inevitably be the real and decisive sifting method. Those who support the Palestinian cause will have to fight those who are against it. This is the law of the struggle which cannot be changed or postponed.

BAHRAIN

HEIR APPARENT DENIES GULF COUNCIL IS DEFENSE PACT

GF281054 Manama GULF MIRROR in English 28 Mar-3 Apr 81 p 1, 2

[By Mary Frings]

[Text] Bahrain may want to develop its own fixed-wing force, Shaykh Hamad, the crown prince and commander-in-chief of the Bahrain Defense Force [BDF], indicated in exclusive interview with the GULF MIRROR this week. Speaking in his office in the new BDF headquarters in Rifa'a, Shaykh Hamad said: "When the time comes when we are ready to handle such responsibilities, then why not? We cannot just come to a full stop in our military development." It would not be enough to rely on the proximity of a strong Saudi Air Force, Shaykh Hamad said, adding: "The British navy has its own fixed-wing air force, alongside the RAF."

Shaykh Hamad rejected suggestions that the Gulf Cooperation Council was a new defense pact. He said members of the Arab League had already signed a pact which pledged them to defend each other. There was no need to sign another, although by virtue of its wealth and geography the Gulf was a single theater of operation. "We face the same problems, live on the same coast and share the same airspace," he said.

"If you are talking about principles, the principle is clear: There can be no development without proper security arrangements to protect it. That is not new. If you are talking about technique: The process of getting to know each other, introducing common standards and carrying out joint exercises has been going on for a number of years. And it takes time. The council adds a morale factor rather than a material one.

"We have not yet been faced by a real threat to show how we can operate. That is why people still think this is a new subject." But Shaykh Hamad said a threat continued to exist, as long as Israel occupied Arab land. He could see no threat more dangerous to Gulf security than that. Neither did he recognize any threat to regional stability from within.

Speaking of Bahrain, Shaykh Hamad said: "Demonstrations are an expression of feeling among some part of our society and we understand it very well. It is not an internal threat. "Elsewhere, you can have 10 bomb explosions in a night, and it is considered a police matter. Why should much less serious disturbances here be regarded differently?"

In facing any challenge from outside, Bahrain's objective, he said, was to build up a credible force. Its military capability was not geared to holding up an invader for a given number of days. But he added: "We have seen huge armies that have done nothing. Here they would do their best."

Modern, reliable equipment and an efficient military infrastructure were important factors, Shaykh Hamad said, and the BDF's policy was to train instructors on various equipment systems in the countries where such systems had been developed. But because of the rapid advance of military technology, Shaykh Hamad said, "We cannot get rid of the feeling that we are always behind."

UK'S NOTT SEES LEADERS; CONCLUDES AREA TOUR

Heir Apparent Meeting

JN311854 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Manama, 31 Mar (GNA)--His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent, acting prime minister and commander in chief of Bahrain's Defense Force, met here this evening with John Nott, British secretary of state for defense, currently visiting Bahrain.

The meeting was attended on the Bahraini side by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Chief of Staff Brig Shaykh Khalifah ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations Brig Shaykh 'Abadallah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, and Maj Khalid ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah, director of the commander in chief's office. The meeting was attended on the British side by the British ambassador in Manama and the delegation accompanying the British secretary.

In a statement to GNA after the meeting, Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah said that they discussed bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest, particularly military training. Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah added that the discussion also dealt with current developments in the Arab Gulf area. He said: The British side has shown great understanding of the fact that the Arab Gulf area is of great strategic importance to the entire world and that the defense and security of the area depend on its intrinsic power.

Amir Reception

JN010940 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Manama, 1 Apr (GNA)--The Bahraini amir, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, today received John Nott, British secretary of state for defense, and his delegation, who are currently visiting Bahrain. John Nott and the Bahraini amir reviewed bilateral relations, current developments in the Gulf states and Arab region and several international issues. The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent, acting prime minister and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Forces; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, minister of foreign affairs; Staff Brig Gen Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Khalifah, chief of staff; and the British ambassador to Bahrain.

1 Apr Departure

JN011502 Doha QNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Manama, 1 Apr (QNA)--John Nott, British secretary of state for defense, left Manama for home this afternoon at the end of a 1-day visit to Bahrain concluding his tour of several countries of the area which included Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, the UAE and Bahrain.

AL-KHALIJ SPECULATES ON MOTIVE FOR REAGAN SHOOTING

GF011502 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 1 Apr 81 p 1

[Article by Editor in Chief Ahmad Kamal: "The Motives....and the Attempt to Assassinate Reagan"]

[Excerpts] President Reagan began his term of office with a strong attack against the Soviets. He accused them of being behind international terrorism. He pursued a hard line with the Soviets. He declared clearly and unequivocally--and this is a point in his favor--that he will support the Afghan insurgents and will supply them with arms, because they are struggling to liberate their homeland from Soviet occupation and imperialism. This stand in itself constitutes a strong motive to get rid of him before he has the opportunity, if he continues in office, to put an end to Soviet influence and to expose the Soviets to the world.

The wounded U.S. President lying in George Washington University Hospital has declared that he will strongly support the Salvadoran Government. He has openly and blatantly airlifted arms, hardware and experts for the Salvadoran Government to frighten the rebels who, according to the latest reports, control 60 districts in El Salvador. At the same time President Reagan has hinted that this action is a precursor that will be applied to all similar situations where liberation movements of insurgents are involved in any Third World country. This constitutes another motive to get rid of him before he achieves his goal, whether the plotters are Salvadorans or other rebels who intend to do what the Salvadorans did.

There are many motives within the United States. It could be that someone who has such a motive placed the gun in the hands of the person they are calling demented and bloodthirsty. There is also President Reagan's own administration, and it may be the source of the motive. Reagan's appointment of his vice president, George Bush, to handle major crises and Haig's anger at this appointment--an anger that began a few days ago and has clearly increased after the assassination--could in itself constitute another motive to get rid of the president.

We do not want to get ahead of events or indulge in speculation. However, it is certain that the attempt to assassinate the U.S. President has a motive other than personal. This motive could be one of those we have mentioned, or it could be something else. Judging from the report on the attacker's background that appeared so quickly, it is possible that no other motive for the attempt will emerge, just as it has not been revealed who was behind Oswald when he assassinated John Kennedy. The United States is a strange country full of secrets and motives, and no rule applies to it.

KUWAIT

AL-QABAS EXPECTS REAGAN POLICIES TO BE UNAFFECTED

GF011146 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 1 Apr 81 p 1

[Editorial: "The President's Head"]

[Text] This time the "film" was real and the bullets were not "dummy" bullets. The illustration came with unusual speed. The lesson was very harsh and bloody, and with less than 100 days of his stay in the White House.

During his election campaign and after his landslide victory in the presidential elections, President Reagan pursued a hardline policy. His speeches and statements about his intention to use force abroad when necessary and provide U.S. "protection" to those who ask--or do not ask--for it in the world were many. To complete the image of a strong and prestigious United States, Reagan appointed in his administration a hardliner at the helm of U.S. diplomacy: Alexander Haig, the former NATO commander in chief and one of those who fought in the Vietnam war.

The Gulf had its share of Reagan's interest in foreign affairs. During his short period in office talks increased about the Rapid Deployment Force and preparations to establish U.S. protection over the region.

The citizen of the Gulf asks today: How can the United States protect the security of the Gulf and the world if it is incapable of safeguarding personal safety in the United States?

The attempted assassination may pass without repercussions and may not have any effect on Reagan's political thinking and policies. However, there is a lesson to be drawn from the incident. When guns are available to everyone the law of the bullet prevails, the concepts of security, justice and freedom disappear, and the arena that is crammed with conflicting values becomes open to a conspirator or a demented or bloodthirsty person and enables him to turn the table of history against its makers.

The painful and disturbing paradox is that the United States was carrying out a role similar to that of John Hinckley when he shot at President Reagan and those accompanying him outside the Washington Hilton on Monday afternoon. How many shots have been fired by a "U.S.-made" hand at Third World leaders and figures? How many civil wars did it kindle, fuel and nourish through its ability to buy men's consciences?

A president's head is wanted at all times and places and in any country whatever its system. As the Arab poet of old said: "One half of the people are enemies of...he who is in office, and this if he is a just ruler." There is not much hope that the President's head and the ideas and plans in it will change, even though he escaped the assassination attempt....

AS-SIYASAH ANTICIPATES YAR LEADER VISIT TO MOSCOW

JN311403 Doha QNA in Arabic 1340 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Kuwait, 31 Mar (QNA)--The Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH has stated that the date of the visit by YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to Moscow will be specified at the end of a current visit to Moscow by a specialized delegation. In an analysis on the YAR today, the paper adds that the visit, which the YAR president will make to Moscow soon, is considered an important step that will affect relations in the region and bring about new qualitative relations.

SAUDI ARABIA

KING CABLES 'PROMPT RECOVERY' WISHES TO REAGAN

GF011910 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has sent the following cable to U.S. President Ronald Reagan on his escape from the assassination attempt:

Your Excellency Ronald Reagan, President of the United States, Washington.

I was greatly annoyed at the heinous, criminal attempt against Your Excellency and your entourage. I was greatly touched, and I condemn this sinister act. I thank God for your safety, and I pray to God for your prompt recovery and wish you good health.

[Signed] Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud

GULF SECURITY SEEN AS CONCERN OF AREA COUNTRIES

LD310831 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 26 Mar 81 p 1

[By 'Abdallah Nasir ash-Shahri]

[Excerpt] AL-JAZIRAH has asked His Royal Highness Minister of Defense and Aviation Amir Sultan bin 'Abd al-'Aziz whether his statement, published yesterday, means implicit support for Brezhnev's proposal for the area made during his visit to India 1 Muharram [27 November 1980] [date as published]. His highness replied: "The kingdom's stance on this question is clear, frank and known to all. It brooks no interpretation because Gulf security is a purely regional matter, which means that the countries of the area alone are responsible for the area's security and stability. "Therefore interference of any sort by any party not belonging to the area in the affairs of this vital part of the world is rejected as unacceptable to the leaders and peoples of the area."

His highness added: "If the major powers really desire to maintain the security of this important and vital part of the world they must realize that the area must be kept out of their conflicts and ambitions so that it will remain an area of peace and stability." Certain Western media sources had described his highness' earlier statement as an implicit support for President Brezhnev's proposals.

AR-RIYAD VIEWS PURPOSE OF SECRETARY HAIG'S VISIT

LD020922 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 Apr 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Riyadh, 2 Apr (SPA)--AR-RIYAD says Haig's visit does not mean--or more correctly--is no more than, an exploratory and a study visit.

It is to view at close range the course of events in the region and to learn the gravity of the explosive situation. He is also to study the possibility of delaying this explosion and for how long this could be done in the event the fuse cannot be extinguished, something which is very difficult to visualise at the present moment. It is also difficult to contain its dimensions within various degrees of gravity.

The paper underlines the bad policy of former U.S. President Carter's administration toward the region.

AR-RIYAD says at the present time it is not believed that Haig is coming to reverse the picture or to speed up the finding of solutions aimed at preventing the explosion or reducing the turmoil in the most dangerous strategic region in the world. It says Haig, like other senior officials at the White House, is asking to acquaint himself with the views of officials in the region. He also wishes to take the opportunity before him to study all likely possibilities to produce a better picture of his country's policy which would be acceptable to all parties, meaning Washington would be an arbitrator and not a party to the subject. The paper expresses its belief that this point differentiates Reagan's and Carter's view of the Camp David agreements.

AR-RIYAD adds it is enough for Haig to achieve this difference so as to be able to say some change has occurred in Washington's view of the situation in the region through wider and clearer glasses. The paper underlines the difficulties posed for Haig from certain circles in Washington: the White House's silence toward the hardliners on the one hand, and the postponement of a study of the region and linking it with possible events on the other hand, such as Peres winning the forthcoming elections or Begin remaining in power.

The paper stresses that during his visit, Haig will not bear statements about the region which differ from those he hears daily at the White House, and will not find different views from those recorded in his briefcase and which he has read and examined more than once.

AR-RIYAD concludes its commentary by saying: All that Haig will be able to get acquainted with and to hear from the Arab side, especially, is known. As a reminder it is this: Arab adherence to the legitimate and just rights of the Palestinian people, the ending of the repressive Israeli occupation, and for Washington to be aware more and more of the dimensions of its bias toward Tel Aviv.

PAPER REITERATES REJECTION OF CAMP DAVID ACCORDS

LD291120 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0700 GMT 29 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 29 Mar (SPA)--The Saudi paper, AL-JAZIRAH, comments on the Middle East tour by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig. It refers to the criticism he made, prior to the tour, of what he called his countrymen's impotence and political confusion, particularly in the field of foreign policy. The paper says that this criticism is welcome if it is an indication of a new initiative aimed at reviewing the American stand toward the Camp David operation for peace in the Middle East. The paper adds that both the moderate and extreme Arab countries would welcome such a move because it would point to a new American policy in the Middle East marked with a greater degree of neutrality and less bias in favor of Israel. But, the paper adds, if his criticism simply seeks to underline the failure of the former U.S. administration to rally Arab support for the Camp David operation and to call for a new American policy to insure success in this regard, then the fate of the new American policy will be no better than that of the previous administration.

The paper adds that the collective Arab stand in rejecting the Camp David operation was a principled one dictated by pan-Arab responsibility to defend the cause of destiny. Consequently, it cannot be toyed with in the international political arena nor liquidated in favor of the aggressor side.

'UKAZ REJECTS 'BARGAINING' WITH U.S. ARMS DEAL

LD020759 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 28 Mar 81 p 1

[Editorial: "The Kingdom Accepts No Bargaining"]

[Excerpts] Some U.S. congressmen--those puppets whose strings Zionism manipulate--have asked Alexander Haig to use the kingdom's request for arms as a means of bargaining over the U.S. solution for the Middle East--the solution that ignores the Palestinian people's rights. But Haig was firm in his answer: "The kingdom accepts no bargaining."

Indeed, the kingdom does not accept bargaining over its principled stands; these stands are declared and frank and are not concealed. The kingdom, on the basis of its firm principles, has time and time again asserted that there will be no peace in the Middle East without a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem.

The kingdom is not known to indulge in double-talk. That is why [Saudi Foreign Minister] Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal said: If Haig comes, let us hear what he has to say. Our stand is clear; it calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all the occupied Arab territories and for recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The kingdom has declared through His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz that it is "neither Eastern or Western." He said this at the blessed gathering in Mecca in which all the Muslim leaderships participated. The kingdom adheres to its national independence and its sovereignty over all its territories. It also adheres to defending itself with its own sons' arms, because it has confidence in those arms, which have been good arms in spreading Islam and its message throughout the earth. The kingdom has declared through Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz that it will obtain the weapons needed for national defense from anywhere it can.

If Haig has realized that the kingdom accepts no bargaining, should not the malicious cliques that belong to the Zionist tribe and the communist tribe stop wagging their tongues to cast doubts and put an end to their blabbering and barking?

UAE

BRITISH DEFENSE SECRETARY NOTT VISITS 29-31 MAR

Heir Apparent Meeting

JN292045 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Mar 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 Mar (GNA)--His Highness Lt Gen Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, heir apparent of Abu Dhabi Emirate and deputy commander in chief of the armed forces in the UAE, met here today with John Nott, British secretary of state for defense, currently visiting the UAE. They discussed bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

His Highness Lt Gen Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid reaffirmed to the British secretary the UAE's firm and principled stand on the urgency of keeping the Arabian Gulf region away from the conflicts of the superpowers to establish security in this sensitive region of the world. He added that maintaining the region as a region of peace, as it has always been, secures stability for the people of the Gulf and the flow of oil, which constitutes the life-blood of all humanity. He stressed the UAE's eagerness to cooperate, consult and co-ordinate with the rest of the Gulf states to achieve these goals.

The British secretary of state for defense said he discussed with Shaykh Khalifah bilateral relations and preparations for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's visit to the UAE next month.

President's Reception

JN300949 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0830 GMT 30 Mar 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Mar (GNA)--UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan this morning received John Nott, British secretary of state for defense, currently visiting the UAE. The two sides discussed bilateral relations, the current international situation and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's forthcoming visit to the UAE on 21 April. The meeting was attended by Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi, the UAE president's personal representative, Col Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, acting chief of staff, and the British ambassador to the UAE.

Second Heir Apparent Talks

GF301336 Dubayy Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Mar 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi--Deputy Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces His Highness Lt Gen Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid held talks with British Secretary of State for Defense John Nott and the delegation accompanying him when his highness received him at Al-Mushrif palace today. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and the situations in the Gulf and the Middle East. His highness hosted a luncheon in honor of the British secretary of state for defense and the delegation accompanying him. Ministers, acting Chief of Staff Col Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, senior officers of the armed forces, and British Ambassador to the UAE David Arthur Roberts attended.

Prime Minister Meeting

GF311102 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] His Highness Rashid ibn Sa'id al-Maktum, vice president and prime minister, received British Defense Secretary John Nott, who is currently visiting the UAE, in his office this morning. The meeting was attended by Defense Minister Muhammad ibn Rashid and the British ambassador to the UAE, David Arthur Roberts. The British defense secretary visited the armed forces camp at Al-Jumayrah, in Dubai, earlier this morning.

Defense Minister Talks

GF311330 Dubayy Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Dubayy--Defense Minister Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum received in his office today British Secretary of State for Defense John Nott, who is currently visiting the country British Ambassador to the UAE David Arthur Roberts, British Consul General in Dubayy Keith Heskell, and the delegation accompanying the British defense secretary attended the meeting.

In a statement after the meeting Defense Minister Muhammad ibn Rashid said he and the British defense secretary reviewed the situation in the area, Arab and international issues, and cooperation between the UAE and the United Kingdom. They also discussed arrangements for British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's visit to the UAE scheduled to begin on 21 April 1981.

Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum hosted a luncheon today in honor of John Nott and the delegation accompanying him. Senior officers of the armed forces and police, British Ambassador David Arthur Roberts, British Consul General Keith Heskell, and members of the diplomatic corps attended.

Press Conference

JN301145 Doha QNA in Arabic 1105 GMT 30 Mar 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Mar (QNA)--John Nott, British secretary of state for defense, has stressed that his country welcomes the establishment of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, and that the United Kingdom is ready to offer all kinds of assistance to the council to achieve security and stability for the peoples in the area.

The British official said that his visits to Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, the UAE and his visit to Bahrain are for the purpose of holding important consultations with the leaders of these countries and the competent ministers, so as to strengthen relations of cooperation between the United Kingdom and Gulf countries in all spheres.

At a press conference in Abu Dhabi this morning, the British secretary of state for defense said that his talks with officials in the area had not been confined to only defense matters but covered various issues, particularly technical ones, development plans and the United Kingdom's readiness to participate in these fields as a sign of the old friendship that links the United Kingdom to the countries in the area. John Nott said that, during his talks with officials in the area, he found understanding concerning the issue of developing and strengthening relations between the United Kingdom and the Gulf countries in all spheres.

On reports concerning the United Kingdom's participation in the Rapid Deployment Force in light of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's recent statements, the British secretary of state said that the United Kingdom has no intention of interfering in the area's affairs. He explained that there has been a misunderstanding concerning Mrs Thatcher's statements and the task of the Rapid Deployment Force, which is not even understood by the Americans themselves. John Nott pointed out that the discussion of a foreign force that would be present in the Gulf does not mean intervention in the Gulf countries affairs, but protection of the area's stability against the Soviet threat which had expanded to Afghanistan. John Nott added that Soviet greed toward this area is not new and that Soviet expansion toward warm waters has been a Soviet policy since the time of the czars. The leaders of the countries in the area are aware of the danger of Soviet expansion. He stressed that the British Government is against any Soviet threat, either to the countries in the area or to other countries in the world--including Poland.

John Nott also stressed his country's desire to seek a just peace and added that the United Kingdom and the European countries are interested in achieving peace and removing all tensions from the area.

Editorial Reaction

GF011712 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 31 Mar 81 p 1

[Editorial: "Declaration of our National Determination to Nott"]

[Text] When John Nott, British secretary of state for defense, arrived on an official visit, we welcomed him to the UAE and not "east of Suez." His visit to our country was preceded by statements by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on her government's plan to send British forces "east of Suez," as it was during the days of the "imperialist empire."

During a meeting between Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid and the British secretary of state for defense, the deputy commander of the armed forces asserted the UAE's firm and principled stand on keeping the Gulf region away from the superpowers' rivalries in order to maintain stability and security in this vital part of the world. We have no doubts that this assertion is a decisive official declaration of our national determination to reject any foreign intervention under any name or cover.

Perhaps the positive dimensions of this declaration influenced John Nott in the press conference he held yesterday at the conclusion of his visit to the UAE. He said the Gulf states' leaders do not want the region to be a field of confrontation between the two superpowers. He added that the last thing he would think of would be to dispatch British forces to the Gulf, unless requested to do so by any of the friendly Gulf countries. Such a move would be made in complete consultation and cooperation with this country. Although the first part of the statement is satisfactory, it demonstrates--perhaps without Nott's knowledge--the mentality of the extinct empire that ignores, or claims to ignore, that this is an era in which the balance of strength has changed and national sovereignty has become very common. Saying that Britain will probably dispatch forces if a friendly country makes such a request is a way for Britain to hold the rope and tug it at the appropriate time.

As for saying that the press has misunderstood Mrs Thatcher's statements on participation with the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force in the Gulf and the return of British forces east of Suez, we wish the press really had misunderstood the statements as he said. However, is it possible that this mistake has occurred in all the world's press at the same time?

Mrs Thatcher will visit the UAE soon. It may be a good opportunity for her to reiterate what her defense secretary has said about the press' mistake and to supply evidence that Britain does not want to harm our independence.

We bid Mr Nott farewell, hoping that he has understood, during his Gulf tour, that the region does not fear--as the Kuwaiti defense minister said 2 days ago--the Soviet invasion of our lands that Britain and the United States foresee.

AL-WAHDAH CRITICIZES HAIG'S STATEMENTS ON MIDEAST

JN020833 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0730 GMT 2 Apr 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Apr (ENA)--The paper AL-WAHDAH has strongly criticized the statements which were made a few days ago by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, who is preparing to tour the region. In these statements Haig announced that the purpose of his visit is the confrontation of the Soviets by spreading U.S. bases throughout the region, adding that he believes that the Soviet threat, and nothing else, made the Arab-Israeli conflict explode.

In its editorial today the paper adds that U.S. logic, as represented by Haig, evades the truth and removes itself from it, pointing out that with such a stand, the United States is seeking to drag the Arab nation into a conflict that will not benefit the Arab issue at all and into secondary issues that are not within the essence of the goals of Arab struggle. It says: The Arabs, who are still suffering from the policy of the United States, whose mistakes have accumulated, want no more than understanding from the United States and its support for logic.

The United States, Haig and all the previous U.S. administrations are well aware that the Arab-Zionist conflict was not the result of Soviet expansion. Rather, this conflict was the result of the U.S. desire to be the world's mistress through imposing hegemony over the world's most important region--the Arab homeland--and planting an alien entity in the region.

PDRY

PFLO RADIO CASTIGATES U.S., UK FOR RDF PROPOSALS

LD291042 Aden Voice of PFLO in Arabic 1545 GMT 28 Mar 81 EA

[Text] The Middle East tour being conducted by the British secretary of state for defense has included Oman. He went there to discuss with officials of the Qabus puppet regime the question of the Rapid Development Force [RDF] which Britain and the United States have agreed to establish in the Middle East.

Before his visit to the region, the British secretary of state for defense told AL-JAZIRAH of Saudi Arabia that the RDF proposed by Margaret Thatcher, the British prime minister, would not be sent to the Arab Gulf region unless requested by officials of the region.

This kind of talk exposes the bogus nature of the claims made by Britain and all the imperialist powers. Britain and the United States have already embarked on forming the RDF and concluded agreements with some of the reactionary states in the Gulf region and the Horn of Africa on the basis of which they have acquired military bases in the territory of this region without the imperialist powers taking into consideration the points of view of the peoples and some of the nationalist regimes in the region, which they claim to be protecting.

This shows that the imperialist circles have no regard at all for anything except their own interests. The statement by the British secretary of state for defense that the RDF will not be sent to the Gulf region unless asked by officials of the region shows complete disregard for all the declarations made by officials of the Arab Gulf regimes in the past.

These declarations make it clear that the security of the Gulf region is the responsiblity of its own states. Subsequently these states expressed their disapproval of all the imperialist military buildups now going on in the region.

The British secretary of state for defense, in the above-mentioned statements, explains two fundamental points: Either Britain and the United States have not been informed about the views of the states of the region concerning this matter, or the imperialist states have reached agreement with the regimes of the region, as stated by officials [as heard], concerning the presence of foreign troops in the Gulf region.

The correct and reasonable assumption in the light of current circumstances is that agreement or collusion between the imperialist and reactionary sides involved does exist. Thus, the numerous and successive visits by American and British officials to the states of the region expose the secret things which some people are trying to hide from the Arab masses in the Arab Gulf region.

The puppet regime of Qabus, which opened wide the doors of Oman for the imperialist military troops to establish their military bases, at the very same time that it is considered a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council, shows clearly that collusion between the imperialists and the reactionaries is a fundamental and manifest truth.

The statement by the British secretary of state for defense is refuted by the events reflected in Britain's obtaining military facilities at Omani airbases and ports. Furthermore, British officials have embarked on sending naval ships to be stationed in the region, together with the other naval ships, which now number over 60 warships, all belonging to the imperialist states.

The visit by the British secretary of state for defense to Muscat belongs to the central ring of these states [as heard]. The purpose of the visit is to acquire further facilities from the puppet regime of Muscat and this, in itself, constitutes a continuing danger and threat to the peoples of the region and their national democratic forces which are fighting to keep the Gulf region and the Arab Peninsula free of international tension.

'ALI ADDRESSES PRESS IN BELGIUM ON CURRENT ISSUES

NC011857 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Brussels, 1 Apr (MENA)--Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has reaffirmed that Egypt has asked for an active European role in the Middle East peace process because this role does not contradict the Camp David accord but is in line with it. He said: We welcome the European initiative, and we have assurances from all the countries of Europe and the EEC that the European role does not contradict Camp David. He added: I think that this view was conveyed to the United States.

Speaking at a press conference in Burssels today, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the European role has not yet begun--it is in the stage of formation through contacts among the European states and the parties concerned. He expressed the opinion that perhaps after this stage the European states will have some ideas on ways to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East.

At the beginning of the press conference, Kamal Hasan 'Ali expressed gratitude to King Baudouin and to the Belgian Government and people for the warm hospitality accorded the Egyptian delegation.

Answering a question regarding what he expects from the United States during the talks he will hold with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig on his first visit to Egypt and the Middle East, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: There are many questions that must be discussed with him. Of course, he added, they pertain to the Middle East, the foreign threats to the area and Egyptian-U.S. relations. He added: Regarding the peace process, I think that we shall discuss the ways and means to continue the peace process and give it more momentum. We shall also discuss the question of the formation of a multinational peacekeeping force.

In reply to another question, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: We welcome the granting of military facilities to the United States to confront any threat facing the Arab world. I think that the foreign intervention in Afghanistan has made it clear and confirmed that the foreign threat to the area requires balancing from the other side--that is to say, it requires its presence. For this reason we have welcomed the granting of facilities to the United States.

In reply to a question about his views on President as-Sadat's statement that Europe has a role to play in bringing the parties to the dispute in the Middle East closer together, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: As you know, Europe has good relations with the PLO and Israel and most European states recognize the organization and all of them have good relations with Israel. I think that the European role would be to exert efforts to achieve mutual recognition between the organzation and Israel. Regarding the form of recognition between the PLO and the Israeli Government, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: Our opinion is that there should be a provisional Palestinian government and the mutual recognition will be between it and the Israeli Government.

Asked about the Scandinavian countries' reaction to the primary objective of his visit--the formation of the multinational peacekeeping force--and the outcome of his talks in Belgium on this subject, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: Actually, the question of the formation of the peacekeeping force was not the main reason for my tour of these five states. The purpose is represented in the following:

1. To invite the Scandinavian countries and the countries of the north to play a role, like the 10 EEC states, in pushing the peace efforts.
2. To discuss ways to strengthen the bilateral relations between Egypt and these states. I think that we have achieved progress in this respect.

He added: As for the multinational peacekeeping force, we welcome the participation of peacekeeping forces from the United Nations. But if they are unable for one reason or another, we shall work for the formation of a force from the states which can participate and whose conditions permit them to do so.

Asked about relations between Egypt and the Arab countries and when they will return to normalcy, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: This is up to the Arab brothers and they can come any time. We expect this any time, particularly if we manage to make progress in the autonomy talks. Then there can be a clear thing regarding the Palestinian question. This would give a possibility for contacts between Egypt and the Arab countries.

Regarding what President as-Sadat said yesterday about Iraq and the form of relations between Iraq and Egypt, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: As President as-Sadat said yesterday, it is a kind of appreciation and recognition of Iraq's role with Egypt in the 1973 war and others. He added: We are not a big power to give arms that would affect the balance between Iran and Iraq; it is a way of expressing appreciation of Iraq.

GHAZALAH COMMENTS ON LIBYAN COOPERATION WITH USSR

LD021017 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 30 Mar 81 p 3

[Interview granted by Defense Minister Lt Gen 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah to Muhammad 'Abd al-Mun'im--date and place not specified]

[Excerpts] My first question to him was about Sudan and the dangers threatening it, which are bound to increase now that Sudan has smashed the barriers and headed northward with all its strength.

The defense minister said: We in the military sector, like all other sectors in Egypt, work within the framework of a fixed strategy. With regard to Sudan we operate within the joint defense pact. So we are keeping our eyes open to all that is happening around Sudan and to any dangers that may threaten it. In case of any threat, regardless of its source, we will immediately intervene. There are technical committees that have drawn up plans for all possibilities and exigencies because we believe that there is mutuality between a threat and an event.

[Question] In other words?

[Answer] In other words, threat definitely precedes event, and therefore there should be plans and preparations to meet such an event, so as not to leave things to circumstances of surprises. In certain other cases it would be better to abort the event. But the problem in our area is that we are brotherly peoples and, therefore, when one of these peoples is afflicted by sick leadership that forces the people to play the "cats's paw" or the agent for another power distant from the area, the situation becomes extremely complex.

[Question] We thus come to Libya and Al-Qadhdhafhi.

[Answer] There is no doubt that he is a typical example in this case.

[Question] He accuses us of giving military bases to U.S. "imperialism" to be used as springboards for Rapid Deployment Force [RDF] intervention in the area.

[Answer] First, we do not have a single military base in Egypt for a foreign country. What we offer the United States, as President as-Sadat has decided and declared more than once, are merely facilities which the RDF could use in order to go to the rescue of an Arab country that might ask for help. I would like to say that if the dangers in the area were local, there would have been no need for such a force, consisting of thousands of tons of Soviet weapons stockpiled in Libya in quantities that go far beyond the Libyan people's needs.

With the presence of these sophisticated weapons and the thousands of Soviet advisers who now work in Libya, it would be easy to transport crews and personnel without anybody noticing. Thus the Soviet presence in the area is a tangible fact, whereas the U.S. RDF which they talk about absolutely does not exist. Its men and arms are concentrated in their bases in the United States and Europe. Those men and weapons have to be moved to the area in the event of any threat to friendly states or to the oilfields on which the United States and the Western world depend. Therefore, the Soviets, thanks to Libya, are in a better position than the Americans, despite their aggressive intentions, which are borne out by the events in Afghanistan.

[Question] Is Libya's role confined to being an arsenal or depot of Soviet arms?

[Answer] Libya is playing a prominent role in the operation to spread Soviet forces worldwide. Its geographical position is considered ideal for controlling the Mediterranean and for penetrating into the heart of Africa. The Soviets used Libya as a station to refuel the Soviet military transport planes that established an airlift to ship arms and equipment to Angola and Mozambique. Because of its resources and present conditions, Libya has become the cornerstone of the spread of Soviet forces in the Mediterranean, which is patrolled by Soviet naval units that rely on their bases in Libya. Also, Soviet reconnaissance planes basically rely on Libyan bases, especially the 'Uqbah Bin Nafi' base. Briefly, all the Soviet military activities in the Mediterranean and in Africa are fundamentally based on their presence in Libya. If it were not for this presence such activity would be impossible.

[Question] Reports have said that a West German company is manufacturing rockets in Libya.

[Answer] The fact is that Al-Qadhdhafi wants to launch a space satellite, and therefore he is offering vast sums of money to this company to manufacture the satellite and the rockets that will launch it into space. The company is definitely benefiting from this, just as the foreign pilots which he brought to Libya benefit from the high wages they receive. They fly a great number of hours free of charge, at the expanse of Al-Qahddhafi and the Libyan people. These pilots have no patriotic motives or honest aims for which they will expose their lives to danger. This is merely squandering the wealth of a brotherly people, God help them.

[Question] Have the Soviets supplied Libya with surface-to-surface missiles?

[Answer] Yes, they have supplied the Libyans with Frog and Scud missiles, and other types as well. But it is the Soviets that operate them--which is another danger threatening the area, in addition to the threat from the arms that the Soviets store in Libya.

GHAZALAH VIEWS FOREIGN, DOMESTIC MILITARY ISSUES

LD011411 Cairo MAY in Arabic 30 Mar 81 p 11

[Hidayat 'Abd an-Nabi interview with Defense Minister Lt Gen 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah--place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] What is Egypt's defense policy in the light of current developments and the danger spots around us?

[Answer] The armed forces' principal task is well known. It is to secure Egypt's boundaries and territories against any outside aggression, as well as securing Egypt's safety and land. We have therefore conducted a study of possible threats to Egypt's borders from all directions and of the friendly states around us, particularly the Arab and Middle Eastern states, and the mutual interests we have with these states, be they economic, political or strategic.

On the basis of this study we decided on the size of armed forces which could best achieve Egypt's military-political strategy, in accordance with the principles charted by the political authorities. In addition to securing Egypt's borders, the Egyptian Armed Forces also secure the safety of the Arab world against foreign interference, but they do not aim to interfere in the affairs of other states under any circumstances. This has been Egypt's destiny and duty over the years. Egypt will continue to be the shield of the Arab nation, despite transient disagreements.

[Question] According to press reports, Libya has raised its army's state of readiness. What does this signify as far as Egypt's western borders are concerned? And is there a threat to Sudan at present?

[Answer] As I have already said, the armed forces' task is to protect Egypt against any dangers threatening intentions. We are fully prepared to repulse any aggression, whether it comes from the Libyan side or whether Libya is spurred by the Soviet Union to commit aggression. Despite the reports that Libya has raised its armed forces' readiness, we see no indication thus far that Libya has any aggressive intention to attack Egypt. Libya could have raised its state of preparedness because of its involvement in Chad or because of internal problems. That is not unlikely.

[Question] Then are there signs of a threat to Sudan?

[Answer] We are keeping our eyes open on Sudan. Plans and preparations have actually been made to secure Sudan. His excellency the president has declared that any aggression against Sudan is an aggression against Egypt and that Egypt will intervene as soon as any developments occur. But when will such a threat occur? I do not believe that it will occur in the near future but, knowing Al-Qadhdhafi's way of thinking and the political factors behind it, such as the Soviet pressure, we do not exclude the possibility of his doing something. But when? I do not think that it will be very soon.

[Question] So cooperation with Sudan had not stopped at all before the restoration of relations at embassy level between the two countries?

[Answer] We were contributing to training the Sudanese Armed Forces. We have a military training mission there and we supply Sudan with much of its ammunition and arms needs. Recently, President as-Sadat issued orders to supply Sudan with some equipment and weapons. We have joint plans and a joint operational organization with Sudan. This affords Sudan sufficient security to confront any likely threat, either on the eastern or the western front. Naturally, there is coordination between us and Sudan with regard to Chad and any possible developments there. There is also a complete plan for extending urgent aid in the form of either direct military action or supplies. The plan is ready.

[Question] Did you visit Khartoum when you were chief of staff?

[Answer] I did not go to Khartoum, but many others from the operations staff went and held several meetings.

[Question] Some people believe that Sudan wanted to resume full relations because of the seriousness of the situation it is facing.

[Answer] That is untrue. The stalemate in political ties did not preclude the existence of relations between us and Sudan. However, there were certain factors to which Sudan was exposed. Despite this, relations are proceeding well and Sudanese military men are receiving training in Egypt.

[Question] At some time in the past you expressed the hope for Egyptian-Saudi rapprochement. Do you expect this rapprochement to take place in the wake of the current Egyptian-Sudanese rapprochement?

[Answer] Rapprochement is subject to a political decision. From a military standpoint, however, I would like to point out that the security of the Gulf basically depends on a strong Egypt in the area. What we are hearing about meetings and agreements among the Arab states in the Gulf area is good but this does not make them strong and impregnable unless Egypt has an effective role in the area. In any event, the United States must help in achieving this rapprochement. How? That is up to the United States itself. However, I again say that the question of rapprochement between Egypt and any other Arab state is subject to a political decision. But on the military level, there is nothing better than cooperation among the Arab states, particularly between Egypt, the motherland, which has manpower, technical expertise and military capabilities, and states which need all these things and which have resources, such as Saudi Arabia.

I must point out here that the United States itself wants agreement among the Arabs because it is in its interest to have a force in the area that will stand up to the "Soviet bear." U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig has stated that there is no alternative to a strong Egypt. Haig's statement confirms what I have said. A strong Egypt in the area is the only balancing factor. A weak Egypt renders the entire area a choice morsel in the mouth of the Soviet bear. Even an American presence will not protect the area. What protects the area is a strong Egypt, and U.S. aid whenever necessary.

[Question] You have received training in the Soviet Union. In your opinion, what is the difference between American and Soviet weapons?

[Answer] The Soviets have many modern weapons but they give these only to the states which are within the so-called circle of "Soviet friendship"--states which adopt communism. If a state is not communist, it is subjected to complications and restrictions with regard to armament and the type of arms. They have given us planes, tanks and artillery, but there is no comparison between the Soviet T-54 tank, a number of which we had, and the American M-3160 [as published] tank, which the United States has given to Israel. It is true that they have given us arms, but not of the superquality type the Soviets have. They have had the T-72 and the T-62 tanks for a long time but gave us the latter type only before the October war, and in limited numbers. The allegations about not being able to absorb certain types of weapons are a lie, because Egypt can absorb any type of weapon. I will give you an example: Israel took 3 years to absorb the Phantoms, whereas the Egyptians absorbed them in 8 months. This proves that we have a boundless ability to absorb weapons. Egypt has over 3 million engineers and technicians. This figure exceeds the population of Israel. Despite the fact that we had received weapons very inferior to the American weapons which Israel had, we performed magnificently in the October war and triumphed. We studied the weapons meticulously and succeeded in developing them, thanks to the Egyptian man.

[Question] Do you think that the United States is prepared to give sophisticated weapons to Egypt like the weapons it is giving to Israel?

[Answer] We are to receive F-16's. The United States has offered us F-15's, but each of these planes costs $76 million. For this reason, we have chosen the F-16, because the current loan of $1.5 billion has restrictions and we need these planes. We hope to obtain our needs quickly.

[Question] Please allow me to raise a number of subjects. The first is about former Ambassador Sa'd ad-Din Shadhili and his affair with Egypt.

[Answer] What Lieutenant General ash-Shadhili did at the level of the General Command has been referred to by the president in more than one statement. I believe that if specific accusations and criticisms are made against him, a commander at this level--the level of chief of staff--must remain in Egypt and courageously face these charges. It is absolutely not permissible for him, and he has no right to publish anything connected with the armed forces because, by doing so, he will harm the armed forces and especially his country. The general rule is that no military secrets should be published before the lapse of 20 years at least. Some states have a set limit of 30 yeras. That Ash-Shadhili left his country and did what he did is a disgrace to himself and raises a question about his personality, because a commander who leaves his country does not deserve respect. Lieutenant General ash-Shadhili has published a book which contains many untruths. In this book he is trying to defend himself despite the fact that no public charges have been made against him. The proverb "the suspect almost says: 'take me'" applies to him.

[Question] It has been observed that the air force has been receiving the greatest attention since the 1973 war. Are all the branches of the armed forces being equally developed, particularly the navy?

[Answer] Development is taking place on all levels. In addition to the F-16's which we have contracted to buy, we have also obtained the M-3160 [as published] tank, which is the most modern American tank, and modern missiles and missile boats. We also have a submarines deal for the navy.

[Question] Can you enlighten us more about the program of military cooperation with the United States?

[Answer] We have contracted for 40 F-16 planes and a little over 300 tanks, more than 1,000 armored vehicles, auxiliary weapons, antitank guided missiles and modified Hawk-type air defense batteries. The loan expires at the end of 1983.

[Question] What are your comments on the Egyptian-Israeli talks?

[Answer] The withdrawal is continuing. The last phase will be completed in April 1982, God willing. The question of the international force is subject to a political decision. As for the Egyptian-Israeli military talks, there are no problems whatever.

[Question] What will be the fate of the early warning stations in Sinai?

[Answer] They may or may not remain. The decision in this connection is ours.

[Question] Regarding spare parts, do you give any particular state credit for that?

[Answer] We do not give credit to any particular state. However, we thank all the friendly states, without mentioning their names, for the aid they have given us in resolving the spare parts crisis. I must mention, however, that 90 percent of the success was due to Egyptian engineers and 10 percent to the aid of friendly states. During the exercises which President as-Sadat saw recently, the president honored 11 engineers who had done exceptionally well, not only by prolonging the serviceability of missiles, but also by developing a 25-year old Soviet weapon, for example, and rendering it as accurate as Western weapons in hitting the target.

[Question] It is being reiterated that the incident involving the helicopter which was transporting the Martyr Ahmad Badawi and a large number of army commanders was caused by Israel, because Field Marshal Badawi was against the policy of normalization.

[Answer] That incident caused the death of a person who was dear to me and to Egypt--both he and his colleagues. He was a person who had the qualities of a leader and an excellent man. I emphasize that there is no relationship between this incident and the rumors published abroad and reiterated at home. The martyr, Field Marshal Badawi, believed in President as-Sadat's policy and Egypt's policy. What has raised these questions is the presence of a large number of army commanders with him during the incident. The incident had nothing to do with Israel or with acts of sabotage by anyone. It was an act of fate. We are Muslims and believe in God. Everyone meets his fate.

MUHYI AD-DIN MEETS DPRK DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER

NC012055 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1954 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 1 Apr (MENA)--Deputy Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din this evening met with DPRK deputy foreign minister (?Kim Chae-pong), who is currently visiting Cairo, and discussed the aspects of political, economic and cultural cooperation between the two countries. They also discussed the question of forming an Egyptian-Korean friendship society.

The DPRK deputy foreign minister expressed the appreciation of President Kim Il-song and the Korean people for Egypt's policy, under the leadership of President Anwar as-Sadat, and affirmed his country's desire to strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation with Egypt in all spheres.

Dr Du'ad Muhyi ad-Din lauded the DPRK's position in the international sphere, in the Nonaligned Movement and in the various spheres.

PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS 1 APR

NC011247 Cairo MENA in English 1237 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 1 April (MENA)--The foreign minister of Portugal left here today for home after a 5-day visit at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry. He held talks with Deputy Premier Dr Du'ad Muhyi ad-Din on the latest developments of the situation in the Middle East and means to promote cooperation between the two countries in economic, trade and technical fields. He also signed an agreement with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali on means to organize cooperation between the two countries fields of culture, art and science.

REACTION TO PRISONER MASSACRE REPORTED IN SYRIA

NC020903 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0838 GMT 2 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Apr (MENA)--News reports which have come in from Damascus reveal that the regime in power in Damascus has detailed a Syrian Army brigade to the Dayr az-Zawr area to stifle the violent reaction shown by the city's residents in the wake of the disclosure of a massacre perpetrated in a concentration camp. This massacre has claimed a toll of well over 600 detainees, most of them from Dayr az-Zawr.

FIGHTERS EXHORTED WITH SPEECH ON MEDIATION TALKS

JN011431 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Apr (INA)--President Saddam Husayn has said that those who imagine that with arms they can drive the Iraqi Army and the Iraqis from their positions at the battlefront are greatly deluded. In a speech on seeing off a new batch of People's Army fighters before their departure to the battlefront, the president said that the Iraqi on the battlefront tomorrow will become part of the land on which he stands and takes his position. He said that the new Iraqi will not be removed by arms and the only thing that can budge him from his position, when that is deemed necessary, is respect for his rights and recognition of the full rights of both Iraq and the Arab nation.

The president said that this was communicated to the head and members of the good offices committee here yesterday. He added: We told the committee yesterday that everyone must understand that the time when Iraq was prepared to lose some of its sovereignty has passed and that the time has come when the usurped land and usurped sovereignty--whether the land and sovereignty of Iraq or of the Arab nation--should be restored. He added: When we say this, we speak with the confidence derived from our great people, valiant army, the People's Army fighters and from every honorable Iraqi who loves and insists on breathing pure air on Iraq's chaste territory.

The president ridiculed those who had hoped that only part of Iraq would fight and said that they have been confronted with a united Iraq fighting with all its parts. They have been confronted with all the Iraqis striking with one arm, thinking with one mind and acting with one face and conscience.

President Saddam Husayn said: We have told the Iranians: You try in vain to budge the great bridge of Iraqis stationed at the battlefront. You have to think of a new method; you have to follow the path of politics. As for warfare, you have tried it and failed. Those giving you hope in the seasons have been disappointed and will be disappointed further. Winter has passed and spring is in its final month. He added that the Iraqis have proven that no power on earth can budge them from their positions because they are defenders of rights and principles and because they have repulsed aggression against their land, waters, dignity and honor. As for the others, they are the aggressors; their principles are tattered and spurious; their leaders are suspect; and their people are in disarray and disunity.

The president pointed out that mentally deranged Khomeyni imagined he could live in the shade of a legend and superpowers use to fear him. However, he said, the sons of great Iraq have destroyed this legend and made of him a mentally deranged person. The president added: We tell this lunatic and all the Iranian officials that our weapon is not the gun--the gun is only a means. Our main weapon is our absolute faith in our people and principles and our faith that we are right. We are capable, with God's help and with the soundness of the principles and rights in whose defense we are fighting and with the Iraqis' determination, to advance whenever we choose and from any place we want.

The president went on to say: We will not allow any quarter whatsoever to deceive the Arab nation and Iraq again, and the usurped Arab territory should return to its people.

Addressing the fighters at the end of his speech, the president said: We will see you always proud and, God willing, you will return with the Iraqi flag flying high and with your heads held high.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 293

JN011726 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Apr (INA)--Iraqi fighter planes have downed a Persian F-14 fighter and killed 117 in battles during the past 24 hours. Military Communique No 293 issued here tonight by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command added that 9 infantry positions, 11 vehicles, 1 small naval target, 6 field guns, 1 rocket launcher, 6 ammunition stockpiles and 2 observation posts were destroyed. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 293 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With high capability our valiant armed forces continued to pound the ignorant Persian forces in the operations sectors. The following are the results of the military activities last night and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Two were killed and two infantry positions, two vehicles and one ammunition stockpile were destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.
B. Three were killed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
C. Five were killed and one excavator was destroyed in the Sumar region.
D. Five were killed opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
E. One of our units clashed with an enemy infantry force in the Mehran region, pounded it heavily and forced it to flee, killing 49 and destroying 3 infantry positions.
F. Two were killed in the Dezful region.
G. Two vehicles were destroyed in the Shush region.
H. Our units pounded with various weapons enemy troop concentrations in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region, killing 21 and destroying 1 vehicle and 1 field gun.
I. Four were killed and two vehicles and one rocket launcher were destroyed in the Ahvaz region.
J. Our units heavily pounded enemy concentrations and positions in the Abadan region, killing 26 and destroying 4 infantry positions, 4 vehicles, 5 field guns, 1 excavator, 5 ammunition stockpiles and 2 observation posts. Our units also sank a small naval target in Khowr-e 'Abdollah north of the Arab Gulf.
K. Our planes downed an enemy F-14 fighter in the Ahvaz region in a dogfight today.

Thus, overall known enemy losses amount to 117 dead, 9 infantry positions, 11 vehicles, 6 field guns of various calibers, 1 rocket launcher, 2 excavators, 6 ammunition stockpiles, 2 observation posts, 1 small naval target and 1 F-14 fighter plane.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 19 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One tank, one personnel carrier and three vehicles were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 1 April 1981

SYRIAN RADIO CITED ON SYRIAN-ISRAELI 'COLLUSION'

JN011820 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Damascus, 1 Apr (INA)--Syrian sources have exposed the collusion of Hafiz al-Asad's regime with the Zionist enemy organs. The Voice of Arab Syria radio, which was monitored here tonight, said that this collusion took place on 16 March 1981 when a Zionist F-15 military plane violated Syrian airspace and photographed missile units and military positions before it returned to the occupied territories.

The radio added that the higher authorities had issued orders not to intercept the plane under the pretext that it belonged to the United Nations. After the plane had completed its mission, these authorities issued new orders to deal with it. The Syrian radio said that the regime authorities, in an attempt to throw dust in the eyes, transferred Capt Hasan Jasim for purposes of interrogation despite the fact that it was not his duty to intercept planes. Intercepting planes was the duty of Col Muhammad Shalish, one of the regime's aides.

INA EDITOR VIEWS PURCHASE OF EGYPTIAN ARMS

JN011857 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Apr (INA)--Iraq has pointed out that the hardware it purchased from Egypt via a third party comes within the framework of a purely commercial operation. The INA political editor said that the bargain will not even by a hair-breadth change Iraq's principled and political stand toward the quarters selling it weapons or hardware, including the Egyptian regime.

Commenting on Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat's statements on Iraq's purchase of hardware from Egypt via a third party, he added that Iraq's trend is clear regarding ensuring its needs for weapons, hardware and military equipment. He pointed out that President Saddam Husayn has more than once declared that Iraq buys what it needs of weapons and hardware from both the black and white markets, directly or via mediators and traders.

The political editor said: While waging a just war in defense of our sovereignty and for the sake of our national and pan-Arab rights, we do not reject dealing with any country or any source of origin that can sell us the weapons and hardware we require with the exception of the Zionist entity. He added: Our main objective is to secure our forces' needs for weapons and ammunition while waging a valiant battle for the homeland and nation--a battle in which Iraq has no international backing or cover, but a battle Iraq is waging with its independent will and capabilities. This is the right trend in order to guarantee the excellent combat standard of our armed forces in the battlefront and to preserve the spirit of victory they achieved until we achieve all our national and pan-Arab objectives.

The political editor pointed out that Iraq has concluded consignments to purchase weapons and hardware from several parties, through a third party or through arms dealers, and paid higher prices than it would in ordinary circumstances for many of these consignments. Some parties and arms dealers, he said, are exploiting the emergency war circumstances to make high profits. The political editor stressed that Iraq will continue this trend in order to secure our needs. We will not in the slightest leave our valiant armed forces in need of any kind of weapon or hardware required for the battle of dignity and honor forces are fighting.

He added: We know that the Persian enemy is also trying to purchase arms and hardware from the international markets and the black market as well. It is natural that on our side we try to prevent that by removing these arms and hardware from the markets so that they will not fall into the hands of the enemy to be used against our army and people. The editor stressed that the hardware Iraq purchased from Egypt via a third party falls precisely within this framework. Hardware was offered to us, so we purchased it as part of a purely business deal.

In conclusion the editor said: It is natural that such a deal and others will not change even by a hair-breadth our principled and political stand toward the quarters selling us arms or hardware, including the Egyptian regime. This is our steady position and it is also the basic guarantee for our independent course and our splendid success in securing all our needs for combat equipment without becoming a part of any international game or strategy despite the extension of war and its continuation for over 7 months.

ANTI-EGYPTIAN RADIO CONDEMNS U.S. EGYPT POLICY

JN010717 Baghdad Voice of Egypt of Arabism in Arabic 2030 GMT 30 Mar 81

[Political commentary by Ahmad 'Abbas Salih]

[Excerpts] Living at the brink of collapse is the state that characterized U.S. policy in its colonies in Latin America some 100 years ago. This policy also prevailed in the dictatorships which the United States established or inherited from the old colonialism.

Living at the brink of collapse creates a state of instability and entrenches the need of the political regime to depend on U.S. aid. Therefore, the U.S. presence becomes a matter of life for this made-up regime. Living at the brink of collapse means a chronic antagonism between this regime and the masses, and once the masses revolt the regime turns into a tiger supported by U.S. aid, which pours on it the various skills of the colonialist experience so the regime would be able to oppress, terrorize and contain the masses. Living at the brink of collapse is promises and postponements instead of a radical solution of problems. The regime's policy would hence skirt problems instead of solving them.

This policy is now being applied to Egypt. The ruling regime in Egypt has been living at the brink of collapse since May 1971.

The promised year of prosperity has been postponed from 1980 to 1985; the settlement of the Palestinian issue--which is, according to the regime in Egypt, self-rule or a Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip--has been postponed from May 1980 until the end of the U.S. elections and then again until the end of the Israeli elections; negotiations regarding the occupation forces' evacuation from Sinai have just started and the two sides have been arguing about the international forces which are to be stationed in Sinai.

On the other hand, nobody is talking about the Israeli fait accompli imposed now in Sinai. Nobody is mentioning the U.S. advance warning stations in Sinai. The U.S. military airbases are not topics of discussion. So the situation could be summarized by a group of promises, postponements, waiting, and postponements again. This is the most appropriate and successful policy under this state of living at the brink of collapse.

Under this tense atmosphere, the regime tends to invent imaginary hostilities to absorb wrath and agitation. On the internal front level the regime encourages all the negative agitations, like fanaticism, violence and social backwardness. On the pan-Arab level the regime sows the seeds of hatred among the members of the one people, to the extent of instigating wars as is the case in Lebanon, the Moroccan Sahara and the other attempts to create a rift between the Egyptian Arab people and the rest of the Arab peoples. On the foreign level, and instead of directing all attention toward the issue of the Israeli occupation, the regime invents another kind of struggle against an imaginary enemy, as is the case of the feud between Egypt and the Soviet Union. Thus, living at the brink of collapse makes the regime brandish a broken sword in the face of alleged attempts of infiltration.

What is the outcome of this policy? U.S. military bases are spread all along the valley from Sinai to the southern areas of the Red Sea and from Sinai to Alexandria. After the implementation of socialism and after all the socialist accomplishments in Egypt, we are pulled back to a feudal society in which a handful of rich persons monopolize the fates of the rest of the people. After the achievement of national independence we find ourselves once again under the hegemony of foreign powers and their control of our national economy.

What is most dangerous is that the U.S. policy has placed Egypt at the brink of collapse. This is the most serious result of the neocolonialist onslaught. So if we do not become aware of this situation we will find ourselves running in a vicious circle.

AL-JUMAYYIL CABLE DENOUNCES REAGAN SHOOTING

NC011804 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil, commander of the Lebanese forces, has sent the following cable to U.S. President Ronald Reagan:

On behalf of the Lebanese forces and myself allow me to express my profound denunciation and firm condemnation of the mad act of violence against your person and, through you, against the new firm trend of the Free World policy. The Lebanese resistance forces and the Lebanese people wish you quick recovery and hope to see you soon continuing your bitter struggle in defense of freedom and democracy in the whole world.

HADDAD WARNS LEBANESE TO LEAVE UNIFIL AREAS

NC020958 Marj 'Jyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Apr 81

["Text" of 2 April statement by free Lebanon Commander Major Haddad--read by announcer]

[Text] High Commissioner Sami al-Khatib [ADF commander] has affirmed that all the measures agreed on at the Damascus summit will be implemented. Consequently, Lebanon's Talleyrand, Fu'ad Butrus, expressed optimism for a relaxation. Actually, the landmarks of the measures agreed on are becoming clearer. These measures stipulate that the so-called Palestinian Liberation Army be replaced with the Syrian Army on the contact lines and that the army be dispatched to eliminate the state of free Lebanon, in cooperation with the UN emergency forces, to enable the saboteurs to control all the territories of the south at same time as eliminating the remaining Lebanese resistance in Zahlah.

Instead of seeing that those who claim that they shoulder the responsibility show concern toward Zahlah, we see them intensify their meetings and contacts only for the sake of dispatching the army to the south. As if Zahlah is not on the map of Lebanon and is not linked to it any way whatsoever--even to the extent that the official Lebanese radio relates the reports on the fighting in Zahlah as if it were reporting incidents taking place on the Chinese-Soviet border.

Major Haddad continued: If what we are saying is not true, then why are the officials not concerned with dispatching the Lebanese Army to Zahlah and neighboring areas to replace the Syrian Army, which is threatening 200,000 genuine Lebanese with extermination. Instead they send this army to the south to exterminate 100,000 real Lebanese as well--although it is also present in the barracks of Ablah, Riyaq and Ba'labakk without having any positive role to play.

Therefore, we place before the Lebanese and world public opinion, Major Haddad goes on to say, the reality of what has been agreed upon at the Damascus summit, so that maybe the Free World will move to support the Lebanese people against the conspirators against its safety. In the same context and from another aspect, I ask, quoting Major Haddad, every Lebanese military man to join a position that would enable him to use his weapons against the Syrian and Palestinian occupying enemy, for the sake of liberating lebanon. Anyone who hesitates in performing this sacred duty will be considered a traitor against his homeland and people. In particular I address the military men who are present inside the UN forces' area of operations to inform them that we no longer accept your presence there, because you are unknowingly serving the interests of the saboteurs. Thus, every one of you must decide the road he should take: Either to return from where he came and defend Lebanon from the inside, join the free Lebanon army in order to fight for Lebanon against the Syrians and occupying saboteurs, or stay where he is--and he is free to do so--but he will then be considered by us as an enemy of Lebanon and as cooperating with Lebanon's enemies against it. Consequently, we will not be responsible for his safety from now on, but we will treat him as we treat the enemies, the enemies of Lebanon. Forewarned is forearmed.

JUNBLATT INTERVIEWED ON INTERNAL SITUATION

LD311202 Kuwait KUNA in English 1101 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Kuwait, 31 Mar (KUNA)--A leftist Lebanese leader said Tuesday that rightist militias, backed by Israel, are escalating military tension in Lebanon with the aim of dealing a blow to the Palestinian guerrilla movement and to Syria.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti daily AL-WATAN, Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Socialist Porgressive Party and overall head of the nationalist movement, said the existing division in Arab ranks facilitates escalation. Junblatt called for a pan Arab solution for the Lebanese crisis taking into consideration the increasing role of the Israelis in southern Lebanon. He warned that instability in Lebanon would pose a threat to the whole region.

He emphasized the necessity of reaching a Lebanese-Palestinian-Syrian understanding as a prelude to settle the six-year old crisis in Lebanon and urged President Ilias Sarkis to start an initiative for a settlement before his six-year term as president ends next year. He said the entry of Lebanese regular troops to south Lebanon was a necessity to "fill certain gaps" which United Nations forces there cannot cope with. Israel and the Christian militias of renegade Lebanese officer Sa'd Haddad oppose the deployment of regular troops there.

Junblatt is due to leave Kuwait for Beirut today after ending talks with Kuwaiti officials on the situation in Lebanon.

REPORTAGE ON FIGHTING, EVENTS IN ZAHLAH AREA

Shelling, Fire Exchanges

NC020727 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 2 Apr 81

[Excerpt] The shelling of the Zahlah quarters facing the Syrian artillery emplacements was renewed at 0730 today. These quarters include the areas of Al-Hammar, (Al-Mu'allaqah), the industrial area and the entrance to the city.

Our correspondent states that the shelling intensified at 0740, while the residents remained in shelters. Furthermore, observers have as yet been unable to determine the losses incurred in the shelling in view of the intensify of the artillery shelling and of the concerted sniping.

The city was plunged in total darkness last night and its quarters subjected to DSHK and antiarmor rounds until 0500 today. The shelling then subsided slightly, only for sniping to begin, lasting until 0730 today, when the Syrian and Palestinian artillery batteries resumed firing at the city from all sides.

It turns out that Zahlah is isolated from the rest of the country. Battery-powered telephones are the city's sole means of communications. Losses have not yet been determined because of the continuing sniping operations which are being carried out against the residents. Nevertheless, preliminary reports state that at least 15 inhabitants of the city have been wounded. These reports add that extensive damage has been caused to property near the Greek Orthodox bishopric, the government house and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

Deterrent Force' Explanation

NC012107 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] Tension eased this evening in Zahlah and the neighboring areas following the clashes which took place at about 1700 today, during which artillery and machinegun fire was traded in Al-Hammar, (Al-Firzil), Qa' ar-Rim, and Hawsh al-Umara'. Some shooting is still being heard in the area.

An Arab Deterrent Forces source explained that the reason for these sudden clashes is due to an attempt by militiamen to open roads in the hills of (Al-Firzil) and Al-Hammar. This action was considered an attempt by the militiamen to surround the deterrent forces operating in the area, threatening to create a tense situation. This prompted these forces to confront the armed men and stop them from continuing to open the roads by bulldozers, using light and heavy weapons. This led to an exchange of fire.

Bishop's Appeal

NC020848 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 2 Apr 81

[Text] Our reporter told us a few minutes ago that the shelling of the city of Zahlah began intensifying at 0845 until now [as heard]. The reporter added that the city was still surrounded by Syrian tanks and that it suffers from a crisis created by the shortage of bread and other foods. The casualties have not been precisely determined because heavy shelling and automatic fire exchanges are continuing.

(Bishop Kyrillos Dumat), the patriarchal secretary of the Zahlah Greek Orthodox parish, has announced that since the telephone lines are cut it is impossible for him to contact the officials and (Patriarch Hazim) outside the city of Zahlah to ask them to intervene to halt the Syrian shelling.

(Bishop Dumat) has appealed to the Syrian and Lebanese officials to act quickly to halt the indiscriminate shelling of the city's residential quarters. He also asked public opinion to act and to intervene to halt this massacre to which the peaceful residents are being subjected.

Sarkis-ADF Commander Meeting

NC020919 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 2 Apr 81

[Excerpts] President Ilyas Sarkis met with Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] Commander Brig Gen Sami al-Khatib at 0930 today. The discussion touched on the security situation, particularly in the city of Zahlah.

In the south, Israel and the border militias have continued to perpetrate their acts of aggression. Early today, an Israeli commando unit infiltrated through the observation posts of the Nigerian UNIFIL contingent into the township of Khirbat Silm. This force blew up the house of citizen (Mahmud al-Buq) and then withdrew.

A while ago, the situation again deteriorated in the Sodeco locality. The sound of artillery rounds and gunfire is now being heard. Security commands are holding urgent contacts among themselves to halt this sudden deterioration of the situation.

Residents' Statement

NC311334 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] In the wake of the recent events in Zahlah, the inhabitants of the city released a statement this afternoon pointing out that Zahlah is suffering from an increasing tightening up at the security, economic and educational levels. The number of kidnappings and murders of people on roads has also increased. The statement said that the people of Zahlah will not allow the perpetrators to continue with their aggression.

GENERAL TALAS OBSERVES LIVE-FIRE TACTICAL EXERCISE

JN011933 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] On the instructions of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the army and the armed forces, one of our mechanized combat units has carried out a tactical exercise with live ammunition. The air force, airborne units and other combat arms participated in the exercise.

The exercise was attended by Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the army and the armed forces and defense minister; Ba'th Party National and Regional Command members; ministers; Maj Gen 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff for operations and training; armed forces officers; and Arab and foreign military attaches in Damascus.

At the beginning of the exercise, its director explained the tactical and training purposes of the maneuvers and the phases to be carried out by the units during the course of the combat operations. At the time set for beginning of the exercise, our fighter bombers prepared the ground by hitting the enemy's fortified and support positions. The artillery and rockets corps also opened fire accurately on the enemy positions. Other equipment including antitank helicopters participated. Under a screen of intensive fire from all weapons, the engineer units and the assault groups succeeded in performing their mission successfully. Then units stormed the fortified enemy positions and proceeded with their task deep inside enemy lines by pursuing the retreating enemy.

In the second phase of the exercise, the attack unit, maneuvering and supported by airborne units of the special forces and other paratrooper units, succeeded in destroying enemy positions and repulsing successfully an enemy tank counterattack to control all positions completely. The mechanized unit succeeded in putting into practice the most appropriate tactics in storming the fortified enemy area, and found it unnecessary to use many of the known theories thanks to the existence of the various sources of fire and thanks to the determination of the units in carrying out their combat tasks no matter how difficult and intricate.

At the end of the exercise, a token parade of the ground and air units that participated in the exercise took place to stress their continued preparedness and combat efficiency in waging combat operations successfully against the usurper Zionist enemy and those who preach capitulation and reaction wherever they may be. The parade also demonstrated that our forces are determined and that our fighters will achieve our Arab masses aspirations for unity, freedom and socialism, regardless of the cost and sacrifice.

Maj Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the army and the armed forces and defense minister, afterwards praised the conduct of the exercise and those who carried it out. In a speech on the occasion, he stressed that serious training under difficult conditions very similar to those of real combat develops the courage and alertness of the fighters; infuses in them resoluteness, persistence and determination to overcome all obstacles; and makes them feel fully responsible. Talas asked all the participants to proceed with their preparations to achieve combat preparedness and efficient training to wrest victory, thus enabling our armed forces to remain--as our Struggler-Leader President Hafiz al-Asad has said--the hope of our masses for victory and liberation.

EGYPTIAN-IRAQI ARMS DEALINGS STIMULATE COMMENT

Damascus Commentary

JN011510 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Oh Arab brothers: Now that the traitor As-Sadat has admitted that he is supplying Saddam's regime with arms and ammunition, the masks fall from some new faces that have followed the Camp David partners.

King Husayn has not only played the role of godfather between As-Sadat and Saddam but also between Saddam on the one side and the United States and Israel which received guarantees in advance that the arms given by As-Sadat to Saddam via Jordan would be used in the Gulf war, which has been raging since last September.

When As-Sadat laid down the condition that Saddam's regime dispatch a delegation to Cairo, the purpose was to make Saddam's regime wreck the Baghdad summit resolutions, which dictated Arab commitment to boycotting the Egyptian regime and stopping all dealings with it following As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem and his capitulation to Israeli conditions, which led, in turn, to the signing of the Camp David accords, the separate peace treaty deal and the regional pact led by the United States. However, Saddam's violation of the Baghdad summit resolutions did not begin with As-Sadat's supply of arms to him. Rather, this violation was blatantly manifested when the substituted for the conflict with Israel another conflict on Iraq's eastern doorstep--that with Iran--thus affirming Begin's statement that the Iraqi-Iranian war has proved that the Arab-Israeli conflict is secondary to other conflicts in the region.

Indeed, it would suffice for us to cite the statement of Harold Brown, former U.S. secretary of defense, that the most prominent cause of the Gulf war lies in the fundamental changes in Iran, to show that Saddam's war was really waged on behalf of the United States, whose intention was to punish the Iranian revolution, which overthrew the regime of the shah, who had played the role of policeman protecting the West's oil interests in the Arab Gulf region.

The Baghdad summit resolutions affirmed that the Palestinian issue and the liberation of the territories occupied in 1967 are the crux of Arab strategic action and that all efforts should be directed toward achieving these goals. Thus, when Saddam Husayn's regime proceeds to fabricate peripheral battles and King Husayn follows suit in a course hostile to the pan-Arab march of struggle, these acts can only be explained within the framework of the U.S. colonialist schemes in the region. It is no coincidence that along with the continuation of the Gulf war and following the conversion of King Husayn's regime into a center of plots against Syria, the Reagan administration announces that the priority in U.S. policy is not the Palestinian issue and the Israeli occupation of Arab territories. Rather, it is stopping the deterioration of the West's position in the region and directing the course of conflict in the region in such a way that external threats are confronted, which would thus result in a U.S. umbrella over the oil regions.

Who is the source of these external threats? What is the actual power threatening the Arabs' independence and their oil and economic resources? Is it not the United States, which is concentrating its air and naval fleets inside and around the Arab region? Is it not the West's elements which occupied and controlled the Arab homeland for several decades? Is it not the colonialists' primary tool--Israel--which is attacking the Arabs, threatening their security and territories and attempting to liquidate the Palestinian issue with the aid of the colluding As-Sadat and the agent regimes following the Camp David accords?

Thus As-Sadat's supply of arms to Saddam's regime via Jordan comes to expose a new series of plots of the Camp David accords, which are now taking the form of an alliance that includes, in addition to Israel, As-Sadat and Qabus, the regimes of King Husayn, Numayri, Saddam and Siad Barre, who have become extensions of As-Sadat's treasonous course, protected by the colonialist U.S. umbrella.

TISHRIN Column

JN020755 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 2 Apr 81

[From the press review]

[Text] In the "Behind the News" column and under the headline "The Gradual Departure of Saddam Husayn's Regime From Pan-Arabism," the paper TISHRIN says: Through INA's political editor, Saddam Husayn's regime officially admitted its dealings with Anwar as-Sadat's regime. Such an admission came about following As-Sadat's open declaration of what was previously known; namely that cooperation exists already between the Cairo and Baghdad regimes against the Iranian revolution, which is within the framework of subservience to and rapprochement with the United States.

In one minute the house of cards of delusory pan-Arabism, which Saddam's regime has tried to build with empty outbiddings, allegations and fake extremism, collapsed. The Arab masses realized that the sudden rapprochement between Saddam's extremist regime and moderate regime of King Husayn--the U.S. friend--was no mere coincidence. Nor was such a rapprochement motivated by pan-Arab sentiments, Arab honor and other such terms which are constantly abused. Rather, this rapprochement was a premeditated step representing the true trend of Saddam Husayn's regime and the role he has assumed within the sphere of U.S. strategy in the Middle East and Gulf. Thus, following the violent verbal campaigns against As-Sadat's regime, the Camp David accords and the capitulatory peace treaty, reports are now being disseminated about the secret contacts that were conducted between Saddam's regime and the traitorous As-Sadat regime, and about the Iraqi delegations that have and are still secretly visiting Cairo.

Saddam Husayn's regime has merely exported to public opinion in Iraq and the Arab states the Arab words and verbal national and pan-Arab stands that are hostile to imperialism, Zionism and capitulatory and liquidatory trends, while secretely dealing with the United States and As-Sadat's regime and in practice entering the circle of cooperation with U.S. imperialism and contributing to the implementation of U.S. schemes in the region.

The paper adds: Saddam's regime bolstered its relations with the reactionary regimes sympathizing with U.S. imperialism. Accordingly, he agreed with King Husayn's regime, after the latter had entered the stage of participation in the implementation of the scheme aiming to liquidate the Palestinian issue. Saddam actually disregarded the pan-Arab conflict with the racist Zionist entity and fabricated a conflict with revolutionary Iran, in order to justify his actual dealings with U.S. imperialism and its schemes, which are far removed from the Palestinian issue.

The paper concludes: This gradation in the announcement of the departure by Saddam Husayn's regime for the ranks hostile to the Arab nation's issue reminds one of the same gratual process adopted by Anwar as-Sadat in his entry into the real hostility toward the Arab states, elements rejecting subservience and capitulation and allies of the Arab nation's national liberation movements--a reality which ended his dispute with the racist Zionist entity and attached him to U.S. imperialism's influence. Such a gradual rapprochement, which came about through a series of steps, explains to the Arab masses why Saddam plotted against the pan-Arab action charter and unity with Syria; why he liquidated the party and state leaderships in Iraq; why he waged war against Iran; and finally, why he achieved rapprochement with King Husayn and Anwar as-Sadat.

DAVID KIMCHE OUTLINES POSITION ON SINAI FORCE

TA011659 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] The Egyptian Government is not rejecting out of hand the possibility of somehow transferring Israeli military installations in the Sinai into the hands of the multinational supervisory force for its use. This was stated today by U.S. envoy Michael Sterner, who heads the negotiating team dealing with this subject, at the end of 3 days of talks in Jerusalem. Sterner, as well as Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche, were not prepared to go into detail on the issue, but in reply to questions today they said that it is certainly possible for the supervisory force to make use of Israeli installations, including the 'Ezyon and Etam airfields. Here is a report by our military correspondent, Gad Becker:

[Begin recording] [Becker] In the last few days, U.S. and Israeli delegations sat for long hours, examining a U.S. draft proposal regarding the establishment of the multinational supervisory force. There are more points of agreement than points of disagreement, Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche said, even though certain questions--including the one on the size of the force--are still unresolved.

At the beginning of the news conference held today at the end of the current round of talks, the Foreign Ministry's director general wished to clarify Israel's position about the United Nation's role in the supervisory force. Egypt, Mr Kimche said, wants to be sure that all the efforts have been made to examine the possibility of establishing a supervisory force by the United Nations.

[Kimche] We do not believe that there is a reasonable chance that a UN force would in any way be stationed in the area. Since we believe this is unfeasible, due to the reasons I mentioned earlier--namely the United Nation's need to recognize everything that has been done on the issue of the peace treaty and the like--we are prepared to have the Egyptians, if they think it is necessary for them, carry out this examination.

[Becker] As for the Israeli bases and installations in the Sinai, including the 'Ezyon and Etam airfields, while constantly avoiding specifically naming the airfields, Michael Sterner said that it is certainly conceivable that the supervisory force make use of installations that will be left by Israel. This depends on Israel's agreement to leave certain installations in the area, and on Egypt's consent to hand them over to the multinational force.

[Sterner--in English] I don't think the Egyptians are ruling out the possibility that these facilities, in one form or another, can be used by the multinational force. This is a subject that is under discussion and part of what we're talking about.

[Becker translates the above into Hebrew and continues] The Foreign Ministry director general refrained from detailing the Israeli position. As far as we know, Israel is interested in transferring the airfields for operation by the supervisory force.

[Sterner--in English] We're talking about a full range of needs of a force of that nature in this area and it obviously comprises many different things. It also, it seems to me, requires some air capability; therefore, it's reasonable to expect that the multinational force would require an airstrip somewhere.

[Becker translates the above into Hebrew and continues] In reply to additional questions, Michael Sterner emphasized: We are talking about a peacekeeping force, not about U.S. bases in the Middle East. [end recording]

Sterner also stated that as far as he knows and as per the latest reports from Washington, Secretary of State Alexander Haig will arrive for a visit in the Middle East as planned. Haig is scheduled to arrive in Israel on Sunday.

ARMS PURCHASES FROM U.S. MUST BE RECIPROCATED

TA011610 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori has instructed the defense establishment not to sign with the United States any procurement contract involving a sum of money that exceeds $1 million unless a similar contract is simultaneously signed, stipulating that the United States will buy Israeli goods worth half the Israeli expenditure. Our military correspondent, Shmu'el Tal, reports that every deal involving $1 million or more will from now on be brought to Tzipori for approval to make sure that the defense establishment indeed operates in accordance with his instructions.

LABOR CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE TO REAGAN REPORTED

TA011847 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1615 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] Tel Aviv, 1 Apr--In a message to President Reagan following the assassination attempt, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres wrote: "The bullets directed at you were directed at all seekers of freedom throughout the world and all those who seek peace sympathize with you and pray for your good health." Peres wrote that he was shocked to hear about the assassination attempt and that, like so many others all over the world, he too is greatly pleased that Reagan emerged from this ordeal safely and has quickly overcome the wound. He expressed regret at the fact that staff members were hit and hope that they would quickly get well.

PLO-USSR LINK IN GAZA SHOWN TO U.S. NETWORK

TA292031 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2001 GMT 29 Mar 81

[Text] Gaza, 29 Mar--The ITIM correspondent in the Gaza Strip has learned that handgrenades, terrorist materials and documents proving a direct link between the PLO and the Soviets were shown to staff of the ABC television network who toured the Gaza Strip. This material will be broadcast for the first time in a program about PLO activity and the problems of terror in the Middle East. It will be broadcast on 2 April on a program lasting 1 hour. Remarks by the U.S. President's adviser on national security, Mr Richard Allen, about the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat will also be broadcast.

AIM OF IDF RAID IN SOUTHERN LEBANON REPORTED

TA011137 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Apr 81 pp 1, 15

[By military correspondent Ya'aqov Erez]

[Excerpts] Last night an IDF force raided a terrorist base located in the boundaries of the area controlled by UNIFIL in southern Lebanon. Terrorists stay in this village alongside Senegalese UN soldiers. The force blew up four houses used by the terrorists. One of the soldiers was slightly wounded in the course of the operation.

This was the first time that an IDF raiding force had entered the UNIFIL-controlled zone in southern Lebanon. Raids have so far been carried out in areas in which there have been no UN soldiers.

The aim of the raid was to prove that the IDF will not skip terrorists' footholds even if they are located in the neighborhood of UN soldiers. The Senegalese soldiers in the village of Tulin did not interfere in the operation.

The terrorists in this village have been there for some time now and it is from this village that the terrorist squad which attacked Misgav 'Am last year received aid. The guide of the terrorists squad [who was convicted by an Israeli court] is a resident of this village.

HADDAD THREATENS TO RESIST LEBANESE ARMY

TA020933 Jerusalem POST in English 2 Apr 81 pp 1, 2

[By Hoshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] At-Tayyibah--Militia Commander Major Sa'd Haddad yesterday threatened forcibly to resist attempts to deploy Lebanese Army regulars near the northern border of the Christian enclave. He also warned UNIFIL commander, Major General William Callaghan, not to try and extend his force's control southward into the enclave.

Haddad spoke at a press conference with foreign correspondents following Callaghan's statements that he intended to extend the area under UNIFIL control, and intelligence reports that the Lebanese Army planned to send a second battalion to the south.

The press conference was held several hours after Israel Defense Force sappers blew up three houses in Tulin, near here, in an incident which escalated into a clash with UN troops, according to a UNIFIL announcement.

Haddad maintained that his policy was tacitly backed by Lebanon's President Elias Sarkis, several ministers and Chief of Staff Victor Khuri. "They asked us, unofficially, to hold on, not to give up," he said. "They are unable to declare their opinion openly (because) if they do they will disappear," he continued.

Accordingly, Haddad said, his men will resist any Lebanese-UNIFIL encroachment. "We won't give up even if we're exterminated," he declared.

However, he indicated he did not expect an all out clash. Callaghan may try to implement his policy, since "the UN soldiers are not his soldiers, from his own country, so he does not care if they are killed or not," the major said. (This was inaccurate since an Irish battalion serves in UNIFIL).

Haddad rejected UNIFIL claims that the Lebanese Army will relieve UNIFIL men to fight terrorists. The Lebanese Army's communications and supply lines pass through PLO-held territory so the terrorists have a stranglehold, he said. If Lebanese and not UNIFIL soldiers man checkpoints at bridges and roadblocks, the PLO will find it easier to get arms past them, he maintained.

Underscoring the claim that his men have a better record than UNIFIL in keeping the terrorists away, Haddad noted that some 800 PLO men had established 44 bases in the UNIFIL-controlled area since Israel had cleared it of terrorists during the Litani operation in 1978. A senior IDF officer said that just a few days ago, PLO men established three new positions in the Dutch-controlled area at As-Siddiqiu, Jabal al-Kabir and (Jabil al-Butu).

At At-Tayyibah, IDF officers pointed to paths skirting the Nigerian-mannered roadblocks. Two IDF officers alleged that the Nigerians could not speak English and when they had to check whether people carried arms they merely asked "boom boom" and made a sign for a gun with their index finger and thumb. A Nigerian lieutenant at the roadblock emphatically denied this, noting his men spoke fluent English.

METULLA COUNCIL GIVES HADDAD OPERATIONS ROOM

TA011203 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Apr 81 p 3

[Text] The Metulla local council has decided to put a special room in the council's building at the disposal of militia Commander Major Haddad so that he can maintain from there tighter contacts with mayors and heads of local councils along Israel's border with Lebanon.

Mr Yosi Goldberg, the head of the Metulla local council, reported that from his room in Israel Major Haddad will be able to maintain direct contact with the northern settlements' leaders and discuss with them the policy that should be adopted in southern Lebanon.

The northern settlements' leaders intend to draw aid plans for southern Lebanese villages following the terrorists' firing on the Christian enclaves last week.

BEIRUT DEPLOYS 500 TROOPS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

TA021033 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Apr 81 p 4

[By Menahem Rahat]

[Text] Over the last few days 500 Lebanese soldiers have arrived in southern Lebanon and they have already deployed in the areas under UNIFIL control. This was reported yesterday by a senior IDF officer who accompanied a tour of southern Lebanon by dozens of correspondents and cameramen from the international media. Militia Commander Major Haddad also appeared before the correspondents and confirmed the information reported by the senior officer.

The senior officer commented that, as far as is known, the Beirut government is planning to send several more divisions to southern Lebanon within the next few days, and it is expected that they will also take up positions in the areas for which UNIFIL is responsible. The Lebanese troops who have already arrived in southern Lebanon are now stationed in the regions of the villages of Tulin al-Qantarah, Yatar, Tibnin and Al-Qulay'ah.

Referring to media reports that "at least 100 Israeli soldiers are permanently stationed in southern Lebanon," the officer said that the truth was that only about 10 Israeli soldiers altogether were permanently stationed throughout the whole of southern Lebanon and their presence was essential to guard security in the north.

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL TO MOVE MEETING SITE

TA011100 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Apr 81 p 2

[By Moshe Meisels]

[Text] The Socialist International has decided to move its bureau's session, scheduled to be held in Israel in mid-June, to another place.

Criticism was leveled at the time at the Labor Party's initiative to hold this meeting in Israel 2 weeks before the Knesset elections. The matter was defined as an "election maneuver."

The Labor Party appealed to the Socialist International, asking that the meeting be held earlier or transferred to a different location, arguing that it will not be able to devote satisfactory attention to such an important event at the height of the Knesset election campaign. Following this appeal the Socialist International has decided to hold its session elsewhere.

ALGERIA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE WISHES REAGAN SPEEDY RECOVERY

LD011456 Algiers APS in French 1300 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] Algiers, 1 Apr (APS)--President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN, has sent a message to the head of the American executive branch, President Ronald Reagan, which says: "Following the attack to which you fell victim and which you fortunately survived, I beg you, Mr President, to accept our sympathy and our wishes for your speedy recovery."

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI SPEAKS ON CAVALRY, 'EVACUATION DAY'

LD011738 Tripoli JANA in English 0910 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] Banghazi, 1 Apr (JANA)--Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi announced the formation of the cavalry division inside the Urban Militarization Command. In a speech he delivered at the grand equestrian show held in Banghazi last night within the celebrations of the 11th anniversary of evacuation of British bases from the Libyan soil, he said that the people's cavalry force is a step forward towards the establishment of the armed people, a new important force of skillful efficiency in war and a force of a command annexed to the urban militarization body.

"Horsemen all over the Jamahiriyah will be formed into regular battalions within the urban militarization concept," he explained. "The people's cavalry force is not less effective than the militarization of educational institutions which brought nearer the establishment of the armed people. Horsemanship, through the revolutionary action, has moved from the equestrian nature to the actual action of the battle."

"Those equestrian performers who are displaying and showing their art on the national days in the Jamahiriyah, will shortly be organized into battle units to be trained on various weapons according to age, ability and area." He said, addressing the cavalry force, "You will be trained on different kinds of weapons according to your age, capability, and region for which certain type of weapons are needed. But this should not change the fantastic performance of the equestrian force. The equestrian nature of the cavalry force is also important, for it preserves authenticity and creates enthusiasm and high spirits among the horse riders.

The horse rider cannot be a coward, for horse riding creates courage, and a horse rider does not retreat or betray, because of his high spirit and the nature of his profession. He always goes forward when he is riding his horse despite all the difficulties he may face. Therefore this work should be preserved.

The people's cavalry force, from now on, should be transformed into an organized fighting force, armed with all kinds of weapons. This means more arms are to be possessed by the masses who were disarmed and attacked from inside and outside. People's freedom and sovereignty will always be threatened, as long as arms are not in the hands of the people. The formation of this cavalry force, means that an important weapon is in the hands of the masses. More masses, in addition to those militarily organized in the educational institutions, factories and other production sites, will join this force when it possesses the arms," he added.

"This will increase the fighting capability of the people and reinforce their freedom, after they saw themselves gradually possessing the arms following their possession of authority through the people's congresses and committees."

"When the great revolution of the workers abolished exploitation and gave wealth to the people, the freedom of the Libyans was consolidated. This freedom which turned into a serious daily exercise of the Libyans, free from hypocricy, deception and demagogy."

"The world will feel and see that the historic achievements on the Libyan soil are not a force and propaganda, neither is it a demagogy just to create enthusiasm among the people. But by transferring arms, wealth and authority to the masses, the whole issue becomes a serious exercise and the people then will feel they are free and masters of themselves."

The leader said: "When authority is transferred into the hands of the people, they then become more aware of their responsibility. When the people are prepared to face all the consequences of carrying arms and holding powers, they become more responsible towards production and development, since the wealth is in their hands."

"As we celebrate evacuation day and victory over foreign colonial forces, we are also celebrating a new achievement and that is the establishment of a new armed people's cavalry force, which makes us very proud because it promises bravery, heroism and idealism and brings closer the establishment of the armed people."

"This festival which bring here horsemen from all over the Jamahiriyah is unique. This can happen perhaps once in the history of this country. It is taking place in Banghazi, the city of the first declaration and the first historic headquarters of the free unionist officers. The implications of this festival are great since it coincides with evacuation day, through which we want our horsemen to feel their new strength."

"We would like to organize the horsemen within our new force, so that they feel they are a genuine people's force taking part in establishing an armed people."

"The arming of horsemen will show that we are serious in handing weapons over to the people. It is a result of this revolutionary process, all the arms, authority and wealth will be transferred into the hands of the people. Consequently the state in its traditional form, the regular army, the fascist army, all the repressive instruments and the exploitative class will all disappear."

"These will be replaced by the people who then resolve everything in their own interest after being deprived of freedom and dignity for so long. After being oppressed in its own land by internal and external enemies. This people can tear asunder the ranks of treachery, greed and looting."

"Those bourgeois greedy traitors were trying to split the ranks of our heroic people when they were confronting the Italians, allowed the invaders to exploit our people and control this land. They then arranged deals to establish American and British bases, which were meant to stay indefinitely."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi explained that without the will of this people, that produced the free unionist officers movement which led the revolution and destroyed the monarchy, there would still be bases in Libya which would for ever remain an occupied country. The people achieved victory because the revolution was led by their sons. They were the sons of the suppressed, overworked masses that suffered tremendously from slavery inside and outside their country," he said.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said that the Libyan people are beginning to look after their own interests to revenge their martyrs and raise their voices in challenge to the world and its super powers. "This nation has a right to be on this earth and under the sun. So that its voice can be heard, this nation must be armed and in control of its own resources."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi declared that arms will be given to the new people's cavalry and that a large section of the people will be armed very soon, so restoring to them the right to bear arms.

He concluded by calling members of the cavalry to train hard on their arms so as to defend the revolution and bring nearer the day of the 'armed people.'

Spectators warmly welcomed the leader when he arrived at the equestrian show. The masses raised banners supporting the revolution and their commitment to the goals of the Great Fateh Revolution. Guests at the show included Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud and the visiting Chadian people's delegation.

The governors of Faya, province in Chad, said in a speech that the destiny of the two brotherly peoples were one. He also praised the Humanitarian help given by Libya to the Chad people in bringing victory for their revolution and security and stability in Chad territories. The governor confirmed that the Libyans were the only people who extended continuous, unlimited aid. "Libyans fought with their brotherly Chad people to achieve their goals against the French colonialism and its agents."

"The Chad people won their freedom and victory over their enemies because of the help of Libyan Arab people and their great revolution which put fear into the enemy and continuously stands with military oppressed peoples and for their freedom throughout the world," he said.

The support of the principles of the Great Fateh Revolution that Africa is for the Africans and no alliances for Africans except with each other, "we are one land with one destiny and one path." [sentence as received]

The president of the Chad Women's Union expressed the appreciation and gratitude of the Chad people for the revolution and its leader towards the Chad people and their victory for freedom. She said, "Unity between the Libyan and Chadian people would bring full stability, security and freedom for our Chad people." She said the Chad Women's Union strongly condemned the defamation campaigns of reactionaries and imperialists against the Great Fateh Revolution, for its continuous support for the Chad revolution.

AL-HUMAYDI ADDRESSES GRADUATING MILITIAMEN

LD021046 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 2 Apr (JANA)--Maj al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, commander of the people's militia, last night attended a ceremony observed by the popular masses in Al-Jamil District to mark the 11th anniversary of the eviction of British bases from the homeland. During the ceremony a new batch of male and female recruits in the people's militia units was graduated. Brother Maj al-Khuwayldi al-Hjmaydi delivered a speech at the ceremony.

Major al-Khuwayldi said today we are celebrating, in the midst of this great occasion, by realizing another great achievement: The graduation of new units of the people's militia in order to prove to the world that our daily celebrations are always new achievements in the defense of freedom, the Jamahiriyah and the authority of the people. He added that today we celebrate the building of new stores for weapons and ammunition to ease the task of depending the homeland and its dignity and actively participate in cementing true freedom in order to achieve equality between male and female Libyans in authority, resources and weapons.

The new graduating units have been named "25 January" to glorify that great day when our masses displayed their support for the revolution and the eviction.

MAURITANIA

PRIME MINISTER CABLES BUSH ON REAGAN SHOOTING

LD012210 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] Prime Minister Sidi Ahmad Ould Bneijara has sent the following cable to U.S. Vice President George Bush:

We have learned with extreme sorrow of the criminal attempt on the life of President Reagan. While strongly condemning this meaningless action and those who carried it out, we take this painful opportunity to express to you, to President Reagan, his family, and to the U.S. administration and people the sympathy and solidarity of the Mauritanian Government and people. We wish President Reagan total recovery so that he can resume his normal activities at the head of the affairs of the United States.

We would also like to express our sympathy for President Reagan's aides who were harmed in this mad and criminal attempt, wishing them total recovery. Please accept, Mr Vice President, Sir, my sympathy and total respect.

'SOURCES' SAY MEDIATION IN MOROCCO DISPUTE FUTILE

AB011630 Paris AFP in French 1314 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] Nouakchott, 1 Apr (AFP)--The mediation between Morocco and Mauritania undertaken by Mr Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, who has just spent several hours in Nouakchott, has very little chance of succeeding, informed sources in Nouakchott said on Wednesday.

The two countries broke their diplomatic relations after the 16 March commando attack on Nouakchott. The commando group, led by former Lt Cols Abdel Kader and Ahmed Ould Sidi, who have since been executed, were, according to Mauritanian authorities, trained and armed by Morocco. Two reasons explain the pessimism of informed sources:

First, there is a misunderstanding between the Arab League and Mauritania. When Mauritania complained to the Arab League after the 16 March events they expected the organization to condemn Morocco, according to official sources, but the Arab League did not do so.

Secondly, according to the same sources, the Arab League knows very little about the dispute between Morocco and Mauritania, which is based mainly on the Western Sahara conflict.

Dormant since the overthrow of former President Mokhtar Ould Daddah on 10 July 1978, the feud with Morocco worsened when Mauritania decided to withdraw from the Western Saharan conflict by an accord with the Polisario Front on 5 August 1979. Since then, Nouakchott has been asserting its neutrality in the war which continues between a Saharan independence movement and Morocco.

If Mr Klibi's mediation seems to be received with sympathy by the Nouakchott government, informed circles doubt its success if the problem is not tackled from the source: the Saharan affair. Yet the Arab League has never made any clear-cut statement on this affair, the same sources disclose. There is, therefore, the feeling in Nouakchott that the right moment has not come for any serious mediation. Observers feel that the best the Arab League mission could do is to reduce the present tension and stop the war of words by stressing the need for solidarity and brotherhood among Arab and Muslim countries.

Mr Klibi's delegation found in Nouakchott an atmosphere of serene vigilance 2 weeks after the 16 March abortive coup. Military vehicles equiped with heavy machineguns, tanks hidden behind sandbags and armed soldiers in combat dress still guard the main strategic points which were the targets of the commando group (the president's office, government headquarters, the army headquarters and the radio station).

There is, however, no sign of restlessness or tension. A visitor in a car can, after a simple check, go up to the government headquarters, even if his face is almost hidden by a turban for protection from the sandy wind which is presently blowing in Nouakchott. The curfew from 2100 to 0600 is still in force but it is implemented with flexibility and the checks are more severe with automobile drivers than with pedestrians.

ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL DEPARTS 1 APR

LD012214 Algiers APS in English 1635 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] Nouakchott, 1 Apr (APS)--Secretary General of the Arab League, Mr Chedli Klibi, left Nouakchott today after a short visit to Mauritania during which he was informed by Mauritanian officials on the recent Moroccan aggression against the Islamic republic. During his stay, Mr Klibi had talks with the Mauritanian minister of information. The Arab League secretary general is expected to pay a second visit to Mauritania on implications of the Moroccan aggression.

MOROCCO

TRADE MINISTER SUMMARIZES AGREEMENTS WITH SPAIN

LD011656 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] Azzedine Guessous, minister of trade, industry, merchant marine and maritime fisheries, today returned to Marrakech from Madrid, after signing on behalf of Morocco a new maritime fishing agreement with Spanish officials. Several protocols were also endorsed; they concern various trade, agricultural and social sectors. The minister made a statement noting the atmosphere of the negotiations and the different issues which were discussed by the two sides. Here is the text of the statement:

[Begin recording] Moroccan-Spanish relations experienced a tense period in the past week due to the Spanish attitude, which always regards the entire Moroccan-Spanish relations [words indistinct] as being confined to the field of fishing. The Moroccan side has always pressed for the Moroccan-Spanish dialogue to cover all fields, including trade, financial, [word indistinct] and the condition of Moroccan citizens residing in Spain and [words indistinct].

The fact is that there was a dispute always about these (?points), which we insisted should cover all aspects of Moroccan-Spanish relations so that the only difference remaining would be about maritime fishing, which constitutes an important factor in the Spanish and Moroccan economies.

After a number of weeks of (?talks) we were able to [words indistinct]. The last meeting we had with Spanish officials was crowned by a number of talks [as heard]. We signed an agreement on fishing for 1 year. We also dealt with all relations--trade, financial and social. We fixed a number of dates to follow up all these aspects of Moroccan-Spanish cooperation and to produce tangible results accordingly.

As far as Morocco is concerned, I must say that Morocco has won a number of things in these talks, including, for instance, that a 2-km-wide stretch along the entire length of the Atlantic coastal areas be allocated for Moroccan fishermen who do not have modern fishing equipment, so that in those areas there will not be competition with the Spanish fishermen, who have more modern fishing equipment than the Moroccans. We were also able to facilitate Spanish cooperation in the field of training and [words indistinct].

In the financial field, we obtained significant aid from the Spanish to finance our development projects for the benefit of the [word indistinct] sector and other sectors.

In the social field we agreed that the same conditions and privileges that apply to the Spanish worker should apply to Moroccans residing in Spain.

[Passage indistinct] also to increase Moroccan exports to Spain. We also dealt with agricultural aspects and fixed dates to turn new pages in Moroccan-Spanish cooperation. It is worth mentioning that Spanish understanding now enables us to talk with the Spanish and come out with results beneficial to both countries, within his majesty's instructions.

TUNISIA

MZALI INTERVIEWED ON MIDEAST, TUNISIAN ISSUES

LD281136 Kuwait KUNA in English 1034 GMT 28 Mar 81

[Text] Kuwait, 28 Mar (KUNA)--Any settlement of the Palestinian question which does not take into consideration the Palestinians as an integral part of the crisis is doomed to failure, the Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali, told the Arabic daily AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM Saturday. The Camp David agreements "failed" because they ignored the Palestinians, Mzali told the paper in an exclusive interview.

Mzali called upon the United States to press on Israel to recognize the Palestinian right to an independent and united homeland. "The superpowers and Israel must recognise the existence of the entity of the Palestinians," Mzali said.

Commenting on the Iraqi-Iranian war, Mzali held Iran responsible for the dragging on of the war, because of its refusal of the Islamic goodwill commission's peace plan. Unless Iran agrees to the cease-fire according to the peace plan of the goodwill commission, the problem will become intricate and the sorrowful war will drag on, the Tunisian prime minister said.

Regarding the Algerian-Moroccan dispute over the Western Sahara, Mzali called for a Kuwaiti-Saudi mediation and said that the Tunisian efforts failed because of the insistence of both parties on their positions. Morocco ignores the Polisario who are fighting for the independence of the Sahara with the support of Algeria and considers the Sahara a Moroccan territory, while Algeria insists that the Polisario must be heard, he said.

Speaking on his country's relations with neighbouring Libya which deteriorated lately over the raid on the Tunisian border town of Qafsah and Tunisia's accusation of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi of being behind the raid, Mzali expressed hope that relations between the two countries would improve.

Mzali welcomed the formation of the Gulf Cooperation Council and said that Tunisia "will be pleased with any Arab coordination or cooperation aimed at serving the higher Arab national interests."

At the end of the interview, the Tunisian prime minister praised the Kuwaiti investments in Tunisia and said his country is aspiring for more.

WESTERN SAHARA

COMMUNIQUE CLAIMS VICTORY OVER MOROCCAN FORCES

LD011726 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 01 Apr 81

[Text] The Saharan Ministry of Information published a statement this morning in which it announced that on 30 March Saharan fighters launched another fierce attack on units of the invading royal forces in the region of (Umm Ghurayb). The attack resulted in the killing of 81 soldiers of the invading forces, a similar number wounded and the destruction of significant quantities of military equipment and weapons, including 7 armored vehicles, 15 trucks, and 24 other military vehicles.

This assault by Saharan revolutionaries came 3 days after the liberation of Guelta Zemmur after fierce battles waged by the Saharan revolutionaries against the remnants of the invading forces. The invaders once again suffered very heavy losses: 310 soldiers killed, 400 wounded and 6 captured. Large quantities of weapons and military equipment were destroyed.

ETHIOPIA

MENGISTU ENDS 7-DAY TOUR OF DEVELOPMENT AREAS

LD012250 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 1 Apr 81 EA

[Excerpt] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia and commander in chief of the revolutionary army, arrived in Shoa region this afternoon at the end of his 7-day working tour of various development areas in the regions of Kefa, Ilubabor and Welega. Before ending his visit to Welega region, our communist leader, Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, inspected the agricultural research center and the all-purpose farmers training center for the western regions, near Bako.

ERITREAN RESISTANCE GROUPS TO SIGN UNITY CHARTER

JN021001 Doha QNA in Arabic 0835 GMT 2 Apr 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Apr (QNA)--Osman Saleh Sabe, chairman of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Popular Liberation Forces has announced that a conference will be held in Khartoum at the end of this month which will include all the groups of the Eritrean resistance. The purpose of the conference, which will be held under the Arab League's auspices, is to sign the national unity charter agreed upon in Tunis recently. He added that the Eritrean revolution now rejects all the proposed solutions for the Eritrean issue, since such solutions will not achieve the revolution's legitimate goals: independence and freedom. In a lecture he gave in Abu Dhabi last night on the relationship between the Arab Gulf, the Red Sea and African Horn security, he said that this is a joint relationship which has existed from time immorial and has strategic world importance.

SOMALIA

SIAD BARRE SHOCKED BY ATTEMPT ON REAGAN'S LIFE

LD312026 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1850 GMT 31 Mar 81 EA

[Text] President of the Somali Democratic Repubic Challe Muhammad Siad Barre today sent a message to President Ronald Reagan of the United States expressing his shock at last night's attempt on his life. Challe Siad, in his message, said: I am deeply shocked by the attempt to take your life at a time when you were striving hard to secure meaningful peace in the world. Speaking on behalf of the government, the Somali people and on his own behalf, the president wished President Reagan a quick recovery.

TANZANIA

PRESIDENT NYERERE VISITS DELHI FOR TALKS

For Delhi radio coverage of President Nyerere's visit to India and his meetings with Indian leaders, see the India section of the 1 April South Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

UGANDA

NAIROBI CITES KAMPALA REPORTS ON SHOOTINGS

LD311230 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 31 Mar 81 EA

[Excerpt] Reports from Kampala say that about 40 civilians have been shot and more than double that number have been detained since attacks last week by guerrillas opposing President Milton Obote. Fourteen other bodies were recovered last Saturday from the Namanve forest, 6 miles outside the city and once a favorite dumping ground for bodies of victims of dictator Idi Amin. All the bodies had gunshot wounds.

BENIN

CUBAN VICE PRESIDENT ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

AB272108 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 27 Mar 81

[Text] Comrade Juan Bosque Almeida, vice president of the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba and member of the Political Bureau of the Cuban Communist Party, arrived in Cotonou late this afternoon from Lagos. He was received at the airport by Comrade Romain Guillaume (Dojo), first deputy speaker of the Revolutionary National Assembly and member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin.

He was accompanied by the members of the National Executive Council and the diplomatic corps who were at the airport to welcome Comrade Almeida, whose visit to Benin falls within the framework of the friendship and solidarity existing between our two countries on the basis of our common anti-imperialistic struggle in which the Cuban and Beninese people are engaged with determination against all sorts of exploitation.

During his stay, Comrade Juan Bosque Almeida will hold talks with officials of the state and government and with President Kerekou.

Talks With Kerekou

FL301144 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Mar 81

[Text] A Cuban delegation headed by Vice President Juan Almeida will end its visit to the People's Republic of Benin today with the signing of a joint communique.

The delegation was received in special audience on Friday by the Beninese head of state, Mathieu Kerekou, to whom Almeida delivered a personal message from Cuban President Fidel Castro. President Kerekou and Vice President Almeida, who had received a warm welcome on his arrival from Lagos at the Cotonou airport earlier in the day, conversed for over 2 hours. Kerekou and Almeida agreed on the need to increase support for the South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO, and the South African liberation movement.

On Saturday Almeida and his entourage visited the 2,000-house village of (Lacoustre) of Gambia [as heard] built on stilts in the lake of the same name. Some 12,000 persons live there. Fishing, which has been organized into cooperatives, is the main economic activity of this unique village.

Departure, Communique Report

AB311316 Paris AFP in French 1208 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Cotonou, 31 Mar (AFP)--The vice president of the Cuban Council of State, Mr Juan Almeida Bosque, left Cotonou on Tuesday morning at the end of a 5-day official visit to the People's Republic of Benin.

According to the communique published at the end of the visit, Mr Bosque and the Beninese head of state, President Mathieu Kerekou, held fruitful and frank discussions which revealed a perfect identity of views on all the problems examined. After noting the excellent cooperation between their countries, continued the communique, the two parties expressed their common desire to work to strengthen the political, economic and cultural ties between their peoples.

The vice president of the Cuban Council of State also delivered to President Kerekou an invitation from his Cuban counterpart, President Fidel Castro, to pay an official and friendly visit to Cuba. The Beninese head of state accepted this invitation and the date of the visit will be set later by common agreement between the two parties.

Further Report

FL011547 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1506 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] In a joint communique signed in Cotonou at the end of Cuban Vice President Juan Almeida's visit, Cuba and Benin condemn the intrigues of imperialism and its unceasing attempts to destablize the progressive countries of Africa and other regions of the world.

In the document, which sums up the outcome of Juan Almeida's working visit to Benin, both parties score the aggressive actions of the South African racists against Angola and Mozambique and express their unconditional support to the frontline states. Both parties reaffirm their solidarity with the just struggles of the Namibian and South African peoples.

They also express their unrestricted support for the peoples of Nicaragua, Grenada and El Salvador, who are fighting for their definitive liberation and democracy.

GUINEA

COMMUNIQUE ON SEKOU TOURE VISIT TO BANGLADESH

For a Dacca radio report on the communique issued at the conclusion of President Sekou Toure's visit to Bangladesh, see page D 1 of the 1 April South Asia DAILY REPORT.

IVORY COAST

PARTY COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON DEATH OF GHANAIANS

AB301252 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 0745 GMT 30 Mar 81

[Communique published at the end of the meeting of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast, in Abidjan on 28 March 1981--communique read by Mr Laurent Dona Fologo, member of the Executive Committee]

[Text] As a result of their deliberations which took place in the habitual democratic, free, frank and calm spirit which characterizes our party, the members of the Political Bureau and of the steering committee of the Ivory Coast Democratic Party-African Democratic Rally [PDCI-RDA] adopted the following declaration:

It is with full rights that the president of the republic and chairman of the PDCI-RDA denounced during the seventh congress the serious consequences that the rise in crimes and banditry will have on the future of a country like the Ivory Coast which wishes to be modern, peaceful and fraternal. This situation, gives rise, on one hand, to insecurity for the citizens, the smuggling of drugs and counterfiet currency and, on the other hand, to reduced foreign investments and tourism, which we need to complete the great efforts that we have been making ourselves for the construction of our country. Consequently, strict instructions have been given to the police as well as to the gendarmerie to verify at least the identity of all citizens of all nations, taking into account the accords reached at the level of the West African Economic Community as well as of the ECOWAS.

It is in accordance with these instructions that those in charge of public order in the Ivory Coast undertook the fight against the revival of crime in the country, with the help of new and substantial means provided by the government. This operation, which was warmly appreciated by all honest people--both Ivorians and non-Ivorians living in the Ivory Coast because of its salutary nature--went well in Abidjan.

But unfortunately, and as is often the case in such cases, a regrettable accident happened at the Agban gendarmerie and, as is usually the case, some foreign radios, which are always ready to add more wood to the fire with the view to dividing Africans and further retarding the development of solidarity and peace with our neighboring brothers, immediately deformed and excessively exaggerated what happened. The party has decided to fully explain this incident in order to enable the country to continue along the path of fraternity and peace that it has chosen for itself and which has enabled it to arrive at the present result which is the object of so much jealously.

In reality, what is it all about? The sweeps made in Abidjan by the law enforcement agencies yielded the following results:

1--Out of 7,748 people questioned by the police, 287 were detained for screening for they had been recognized as escaped prisoners, wanted bandits and those who had been expelled from the country.

2--Out of 2,396 people who were questioned by the gendarmerie, only 21 were detained for screening for the same reasons.

During these operations, there was no occasion on which a number of people died or got injured. Unfortunately, after a sweep by the gendarmerie on Boulay Island--off the Abidjan lagoon--for the verification of identities, the following day at the Agban post, a young lieutenant locked up a number of those being held for questioning in a narrow and insufficiently ventilated room. This, unfortunately caused the death of 46 people through suffocation.

President Houphouet-Boigny himself, whose sensitivity and sacred respect for human life is known to all, in the name of the government and of the whole country, immediately expressed regret over the incident and called for an inquiry into the issue in order to establish the facts of the whole issue and to take the appropriate measures.

It is worth explaining that the survivors of the Agban tragedy, who were released, have formally recognized that only 17 of the 46 dead were Ghanaians. As for the rest, who had no papers of identification on them at the time of their arrest, they could not be identified either by the Ghanaian survivors or by the researchers who are still carrying out their investigations. No one can assert that the 46 dead people of Agban were all Ghanaians. Whatever the case, Ghanaians or not, the issue concerns the death of men.

The Ivory Coast, which has made respect of human life one of its fundamental political principles, and which is one of the few countries where no one has ever been executed--even criminals sentenced to death--can only deplore, as it has already done, this unfortunate Agban accident.

But, whereas the inquiry is still going on, the Ghanaian Government sent its interior minister to the Ivory Coast, according to them, to learn about the 46 dead Ghanaians. The president was in the interior of the country at the time of the Ghanaian envoy's arrival, therefore he was received by president [as heard] Auguste Denise, who was instructed to give satisfactory assurances, demonstrating our desire to settle as early and conveniently as possible the regrettable Agban accident.

It is worth noting that, before this important audience, the Ghanaian envoy had been welcomed by his Ivorian counterpart and received several times by the foreign affairs minister who insisted on accompanying him to see president Auguste Denise.

We were therefore shocked to learn that on his return to Accra, the Ghanaian interior minister said two falsehoods against us.

The first was that the president had refused to receive him. This is completely false, for the head of state was then in the interior of the country.

The second was that he was received in Abidjan by a secretary of state; whereas, it is known to everyone that since 1946, President August Denise has always been associated with the administration of the country and the party, and that as a minister of state, he has acted since independence for the head of state each time he is absent.

We do not have to interfere in the internal affairs of Ghana, which is a brotherly and friendly neighboring country. It is true, however, that during our ambassador's absence from Accra, having been recalled to Abidjan for consultation--he has had a 15-year uninterrupted stay in Ghana where he is the dean of the diplomatic corps--the Ivorian charge d'affaires warned the Ghanaian Government that some students were planning to stage a march on our embassy on Friday, 20 March. The Ghanaian head of state, who had been invited to Mali, left Accra that day and the country's authorities sent only 25 policemen on horseback to face the 1,500 demonstrators surging toward the embassy. Irreparable damage was fortunately avoided since no member of the embassy was molested. However, the demonstrators ransaked our embassy and destroyed papers, most of which were, besides, receipts for visas concerning Ghanaians about to travel to the Ivory Coast.

We quite understand the action of these youths who were not well informed and we note with satisfaction that the majority of the 20,000 Ghanaian students as well as the population did not follow their example. These young students must have been particularly moved by the allegation that the persons arrested in Abidjan included children aged 6 to 13 years. But one may observe that this irresponsible action was the result of the Ghanaian Government's culpable negligence. While deploring this fact, we are anxious to emphasize that we intend to send the recalled Ivorian diplomatic personnel back to Accra as soon as passions have cooled down. This is because nothing can spoil the very brotherly relations which have existed between Ghana and the Ivory Coast for centuries.

A large part of our population is of Ghanaian origin. It was only colonization which separated the eastern part of the Ivory Coast from the western part of Ghana. There are in the Ivory Coast Ghanaians who have been established here for 150 years. No one can forget that President Felix Houphouet-Boigny's first English-speaking African friend was President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana and that Ivory Coast was the first country visited by the late Kwame Nkrumah following his country's accession to independence in 1957. Even the negative attitude of some people of Sanwi origin who had found refuge in Ghana did not hinder President Houphouet-Boigny from visiting Nkrumah's home village. Ghana was not blamed in any way for this.

The Ivory Coast accorded warm reception to all the heads of state of that brotherly country with the exception of President Acheampong who did not express the desire to visit us. Do we need to recall that 300,000 Ghanaians are now living in the Ivory Coast in all fraternity with our citizens? Some of them even participated at our sides in the political struggle of the Ivory Coast Democratic Party for Ivory Coast's liberation. They continue to contribute to the country's development. How then can one imagine that the Ivory Coast could consider Ghana an enemy? It is true that the Ivory Coast may not share certain ideologies but it has no enemies anywhere and we wish to settle all differences whatsoever through dialogue. After the ransacking of our embassy, Ghana presented excuses and we accepted them diplomatically.

The party invites all the population to support this gesture which honors our country and to continue to maintain with the Ghanaians the fraternal relations which have always existed between our two peoples. Moreover, when the Ghanaian students arrive here to participate in the seventh West African University Games which will open within a few days in our president's native village of Yamoussoukro, we will accord them the same brotherly attention which we will give to our brothers from the other countries of the region whom we are preparing to welcome. We therefore have no bitterness toward Ghana.

Nevertheless, the Political Bureau and the steering committee of the Ivory Coast Democratic Party strongly encouraged the government to continue its struggle against crime and banditry. They noted with satisfaction that the government has increased the means at the disposal of the security forces in order to rapidly remedy the climate of insecurity for the benefit of all who live in this country which has more than 1.5 million alien brothers on its soil. As everybody knows, following the unfortunate Agban accident, the head of state received visits from the ambassadors of the member countries of the Economic Community of West African States, including Ghana. This was a great consolation for the head of state. The ambassadors came to express to him their sympathy and promised to make the necessary efforts to ensure that their compatriots respect the lives and properties of the Ivorians.

The Political Bureau and the steering committee invite all the militants to disregard insidious campaigns being carried on by some foreign radio stations in order to discredit our country, having forgotten that since its accession to independence the Ivory Coast has never taken any expulsion or objectionable measure against nationals of our brotherly countries. Everybody knows that the Ivory Coast is the African country with the largest number of aliens to whom it accords the same opportunities it gives its own citizens.

What happened at Agban--and which we will continue to deplore--is unfortunately not an exception in Africa or in the world. Many Africans in the Ivory Coast are participating in the national construction. Unfortunately, bandits and traffickers in drugs and false currency can infiltrate into their ranks. The government and the party have never held the countries of origin of these evildoers responsible for their malpractices. The Ivory Coast wants to remain faithful to its policy. Our country will remain a land of fraternal welcome. It respects all countries but it insists, in return, on the absolute respect of its sovereignty.

LIBERIA

U.S. ARMY TO TRAIN FORCES; CUBANS MAY BE EXPELLED

AB011836 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1755 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] At the invitation of the Liberian head of state, Master Sergeant Doe, the U.S. Army will participate in joint military maneuvers with the Liberian Armed Forces later this month, April, as part of activities surrounding the celebrations on the first anniversary of National Redemption Day. The U.S. Navy is also expected to make a good-will visit to Liberia at about the same time later this month.

The U.S. International Communications Agency in Monrovia reports that as a followup to current training action in Liberia, the U.S. armed forces personnel will arrive in the country on April 10 for a period of 30 days of what was described as mutually beneficial training for Liberian and U.S. forces. The American special forces, which has about 100 personnel, will come from North Carolina. They are expected to combine individual and squad level training activities in command and control, as well as communications, medical treatment, weapons, marksmanship, tactics and patrolling.

The U.S. Navy destroyer, the USS Thorp, is scheduled to visit Monrovia from April 12-15. The U.S. Communications Agency quoted the American charge d'affaires in Monrovia, Julius Walder, as saying that the training exercise is symbolic of the lasting friendship between Liberia and the United States for more than 160 years now.

Other reports in Monrovia indicate that the Liberian leader, Master Sergeant Doe, will use the first anniversary of the People's Redemption Council's ascension to power to announce the expulsion of Cuban military advisers who are said to be currently in Liberia. There were no further details.

SECOND SOVIET DIPLOMAT REPORTED EXPELLED

AB011845 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1755 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] According to the DAILY OBSERVER newspaper published today, Wednesday, there are unconfirmed reports in Monrovia that the Liberian Government has expelled another Soviet diplomat from the capital for acts not in conformity with his diplomatic status. The diplomat was named as Valentine Petrov, who served as first secretary at the USSR Embassy in Monrovia. Mr Petrov is the second Soviet diplomat to be expelled from the country within about 2 weeks. The first was (Ivan Mozinskiy), who left Monrovia on March 18 after being declared persona non grata by the People's Redemption Council government. He was accused of acts incompatible with his diplomatic status.

LIEUTENANT ORDERS WEAPONS BANNED FROM CAPITOL

AB011619 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1555 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] All security officers and civilians are informed that effective immediately no one is allowed to enter the capitol building with arms. All arms must be presented to the security at the entrance before going in. Anyone found violating this order will be dealt with accordingly. Please take note and govern yourself. This is signed by First Lt Anthony (Toole), executive officer, capitol building.

NIGERIA

CUBAN VICE PRESIDENT ALMEIDA ON 3-DAY VISIT

FL280012 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Mar 81

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida, vice president of the Council of State and Ministers [as heard], has reiterated our country's principled stand in defense of the liberation of the peoples of Africa's southern cone. In a speech at a banquet in his honor given by Nigerian Vice President Alex Ekwueme, Almeida said that Cuba would continue supporting Africa's struggle against colonialism, neocolonialism and imperialism, its enemies' threats notwithstanding.

The Nigerian vice president on his part asserted that Cuba has the support and solidarity of Nigeria, and praised our country's policy towards the struggle of southern Africa's peoples. Underscoring the historic and cultural ties between the two countries, the African leader asserted that Cubans may consider Nigeria as their second home.

Agreements Signed

AB281326 Paris AFP in French 1031 GMT 28 Mar 81

[Text] Lagos, 28 Mar (AFP)--Nigeria and Cuba on Friday signed two agreements, one on economic, technical and scientific cooperation and the other in the cultural field. This took place at the end of talks between the Cuban vice president, Mr Juan Almeida Bosque, and his Nigerian counterpart, Mr Alex Ekueme.

In a joint communique issued at the end of the 3-day official visit of the Cuban vice president, the two delegations particularly expressed their satisfaction over the success of the Zimbabwe Conference on Reconstruction and Development [ZIMCORD] conference in Zimbabwe, and the progress of the South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO, (Namibian liberation movement) against the racist regime in South Africa.

The two parties stressed the need to do everything to maintain world peace and detente, and to put an end to the arms race and the cold war.

During his visit, Mr Bosque and his delegation were received by the Nigerian head of state, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, to whom he delivered a special message from Mr Fidel Castro. The Nigerian president praised the efforts of his Cuban counterpart to promote peace and co-operation between the nonaligned countries and he gave the example of Cuban mediation efforts in the Iran-Iraq conflict. For his part, Mr Alex Ekueme stressed that his country has been cooperating with Cuba in the fields which concern the African Continent.

Communique Issued

AB280835 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 28 Mar 81

[Text] Nigeria and the Republic of Cuba have expressed satisfaction with the success of South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO, and its struggle against the racist regime in South Africa for the independence of Namibia.

In a communique issued at the end of the 3-day visit of the vice president of the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba, Mr Juan Almeida Bosque, to Nigera, the two countries reiterated their support and adherence to the UN resolutions against the apartheid regime.

On the Nonaligned Movement, the two parties stressed the need to continue working toward its strengthening. They expressed satisfaction with the results achieved at the movement's ministerial conference in India. The Cuban vice president has left Lagos for the Benin Republic in continuation of his African tour.

TRIBUNE COMMENTS ON ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT IN U.S.

AB021010 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Apr 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan of the United States engages the attention of the NIGERIAN TRIBUNE. The paper says an American president, more than any other ruler in the world, is traditionally exposed to the peculiar risks and perils with which democracy seems to be interwoven. It points out that America holds the world record in assassinated presidents and asks if the country can continue to afford the constitutional luxury of conceding to killers an open license to carry guns. The TRIBUNE further wonders as to why the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, cannot guarantee any incumbent president adequate protection from the assassins, most of whom are regarded as madmen.

The NIGERIAN STANDARD reflects on the alleged incursion of Beninese soldiers into some villages in Sokoto State and believes it is time Nigeria took positive steps to tighten security at her borders. The paper recalls that there have been cases of maltreatment of Nigerians in other neighboring countries such as Ghana, Chad and Equatorial Guinea. While commending the federal government for the mature way it has been handling these cases, the paper suggests the intensification of security at the country's borders.

EKWUEME WELCOMES OPENING OF UNHCR OFFICE IN LAGOS

AB020952 Paris AFP in English 0851 GMT 2 Apr 81

[Text] Lagos, 2 Apr (AFP)--Nigeria welcomes a move by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to open a bureau in Lagos, Vice President Alex Ekwueme told a UNHCR delegation here Wednesday.

An official statement published after Dr Ekwueme's meeting with the delegation, led by Mr M.L. Zollner, said that the vice president had requested material and financial support from the high commission for Chadian refugees in northeast Nigeria. Nigeria has spent $6 million on the refugees, with $1 million provided by the UNHCR.

Mr Zollner said that last year his organization identified refugees from 17 different countries who had settled in Nigeria. Until now the UNHCR has been represented here by the UN development program.

SIERRA LEONE

SIAKA STEVENS WELCOMES VISITING CUBAN OFFICIAL

AB011006 Freetown Domestic Service in English 0655 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] President Siaka Stevens yesterday underscored Cuba's role as a motivating force toward the liberation movements for which a great part of Africa is grateful. Welcoming the vice president of Cuba, Mr Juan Bosque Almeida, who called on him yesterday at State House with a message, as special envoy of President Fidel Castro Ruz, President Stevens briefed the vice president on topical international issues, especially as current chairman of the OAU. He stressed the importance of regular meetings and exchange of views despite ideological or other differences between nations. What is important to mankind is food, shelter and peace, and Cuba is playing an important role toward the realization of these goals, the president said.

The president recalled his recent visit to eastern, central and southern Africa and disclosed that he had reached agreements with his brother presidents, in the countries he visited, for the intensification of the struggle on the war front and for a resolution of the UN Security Council to pressurize the apartheid South African regime to come to terms with its African population. He reiterated that industrial action inside South Africa may force the regime to realize the need for peace in the area.

President Stevens stressed the importance of the forthcoming international conference in Geneva for Africa refugees, which he said he would advocate for more assistance to those unfortunate and suffering victims.

He said with the recognition of 26 nations, the Polisario seems to have qualified for the membership of the OAU but that the Freetown summit deferred decisions on the matter in order to lessen tension in the area.

UN ENVOY CITES U.S. SUPPORT FOR SOUTH AFRICA

AB011148 Freetown Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 31 Mar 81

[Text] Sierra Leone's permanent representative to the United Nations, Mr Abdulai Koroma, has intimated that African states would like the new American administration to make it known to South Africa that it does not take kindly to South Africa's repeated acts of aggression against independent African states.

Ambassador Koroma was speaking in his capacity as a member of the group of African representatives which saw UN secretary general, Mr Waldheim, last week to express the concern of Africans over recent attacks by South Africa against Angola, Botswana and Mozambique. He also stated that what African states have seen is the open support which the new American administration has declared for the South African racist regime.

In an interview in New York, Ambassador Koroma reported that during the next session of the Security Council, African states would press for mandatory sanctions against South Africa for its illegal occupation of Namibia. The African group at the United Nations will also call for an intensification of the current arms embargo against South Africa as well as to make a strong appeal to all member states of the United Nations to bring pressure to bear on South Africa to change its policy on apartheid. He said African states have delayed their demand for comprehensive mandatory sanctions only to give the present American administration time to get South Africa to respond positively to the question of independence for Namibia.

Ambassador Koroma, however, lamented that during the process of reviewing its African policy, the new American administration has made a statement and pronouncement from the White House which has tended to undermine Africa's stand on South Africa.

UPPER VOLTA

FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR EGYPT

AB291412 Paris AFP in French 1223 GMT 29 Mar 81

[Text] Ouagadougou, 29 Mar (AFP)--Lt Col Felix Tiemtarboum, the Upper Voltan external affairs and cooperation minister has renewed his government's unflinching and unconditional support for Egypt during a toast proposed in honor of Mr Ibrahim al-Sukkari the Egyptian ambassador to Upper Volta, who is shortly to leave for home.

The Upper Voltan minister also reiterated his deep appreciation for the courageous position taken by President Anwar as-Sadat in the settling of the Middle East conflict, without, however, forgetting the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

The Voltan foreign affairs minister also expressed satisfaction with the good relations between his country and Egypt, which has established a scholarship and training program for the training of our young cadres in Egyptian universities.

ANGOLA

JORGE COMMENTS ON U.S. RELATIONS WITH PRETORIA

AB011248 Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] The Angolan minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Paulo Jorge, says the present strengthening of relations between the United States Government and the racist regime of South Africa will have adverse effects on Angola because it will encourage Pretoria to continue its policy of armed provocation. Paulo Jorge made the statement in Luanda yesterday to a team of journalists from various countries currently visiting Angola under the auspices of the United Nations. He added that the proposed U.S. aid to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, UNITA, to destabilize Angola's revolutionary commitments, will only strengthen Pretoria's position of escalating acts of aggression by the Pretoria racists against Angola. He pointed out that the racist troops carried out many attacks on Angola during the first 3 months of this year, which he recognizes as air raids and helicopter landing with artillery attacks. [as heard]

Commenting on the relations between Angola and Portugal, Comrade Paulo Jorge said the two countries have not made their ties harmonious because of some changes which have been developing in Portugal. He also announced that the two countries will hold a meeting of their joint commission later this year.

Answering a question on Angolan-Chinese relations, the Angolan foreign minister outlined that there were no ties established between the People's Republic of Angola in spite of good understanding which existed between the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, MPLA, and Beijing during the national liberation struggle against the Portuguese colonialists.

SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH-WEST AFRICAN POLICE FORCE ESTABLISHED

LD011216 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Text] An independent police force for South-West Africa came into its own officially today. Until yesterday the territory was policed by South Africa.

The head of the newly formed South-West African police force, Maj Gen (Dolf Gouws), told a news conference in Windhoek today that this latest development was part of the territory's independence process. General (Gouws) said the South-West African police force was not yet completely independent of the South African police in the sense that a number of the policemen serving in South-West Africa still belonged to the South African police, but a police college was being built and policemen would eventually be trained in South-West Africa. Until then, local policemen would continue to receive training in South Africa. There would be no racial discrimination in the new South-West African police force.

ZAMBIA

KAUNDA SENDS MESSAGE TO BUSH ON REAGAN SHOOTING

LD011224 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Apr 81 CA

[Text] President Kaunda has described as shocking the attempt on the life of American President Ronald Reagan and the wounding of three members of his entourage. Dr Kaunda expressed his shock in a message to American Vice President George Bush. He wished Mr Reagan and other persons injured in the attempted assassination quick recovery.

ZIMBABWE

MUGABE CONDEMNS ATTEMPT ON REAGAN'S LIFE

LD011226 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 31 Mar 81 CA

[Text] The international community has unanimously condemned the assassination attempt on President Reagan's life as a gross criminal act. The prime minister of Zimbabwe, Comrade Robert Mugabe, in a special message sent to Mr Reagan today, deplored the assassination attempt and expressed the hope that he would recover soon. Comrade Mugabe said he received the news of Mr Reagan's shooting with a deep sense of shock. He added: We in Zimbabwe deplore this deed and I, on behalf of my government and all the people of Zimbabwe, express the hope that you will have a full recovery that will enable you to resume soon the course which (?you have set for) yourself.

BANANA HOSTS BANQUET FOR ALGERIAN PRESIDENT

Algiers Report

LD011258 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0000 GMT 1 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Continuing his tour of African countries, President Chadli Bendjedid yesterday arrived in Salisbury from Lusaka to pay an official visit to Zimbabwe. The president has had talks with Robert Mugabe, the prime minister of Zimbabwe.

At a banquet given in his honor by President Canaan Banana, President Bendjedid made a speech in which he said that the Algerian and the Zimbabwe people had no sooner won their liberation struggles than they began to fight the battle for development and social and economic progress. President Bendjedid said: Although Africa has become strategically important to the world, nothing will delay our efforts to complete the liberation of the African Continent and to strengthen our unity and exert our influence in international gatherings.

Despite the fact that the victory of the people of Zimbabwe has [words indistinct] from imperialist hegemony, the continuing policy of racial discrimination in South Africa and the illegal occupation of Namibia still constitute a serious threat to the entire continent, indeed to the entire world.

The president said that the situation in northwest Africa is another cause for concern in Africa. Developments arising from the expansionist policies of the Moroccan Government become more critical every day. The dangers to peace and stability in the area inherent in such a policy become clearer every day. So do the dangers of denying the people of the Sahara their rights to independence and self-determination. There is also a danger of violating the sovereignty and territorial unity of the Islamic Republc of Mauritania.

The president said that the only way to solve the Middle East problem is to grant the Palestinians their rights under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

In his speech, President Banana praised Algerian-Zimbabwean relations and Algeria's efforts to solve outstanding problems. He pointed to the coincidence of the views of the two countries on all political problems throughout the world.

Salisbury Report

LD011420 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 1 Apr 81 CA

[Text] The president, Comrade Banana, last night called on Algeria and Zimbabwe to transform the relations forged between the two countries during the liberation struggle into economic cooperation against underdevelopment and poverty.

Speaking at a state banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Algerian president, Comrade Bendjedid, the president said the two countries were bound by ties of a common struggle against colonialism and imperialism. Comrade Banana pointed out that Algeria will always be remembered for the enormous financial contributions it made and continues to make to the cause of liberation through the Organization of African Unity. He said Zimbabwe in particular will always remember the shiploads of military equipment given to the liberation forces during the war of national liberation. Comrade Banana also paid tribute to the Algerian Government for its support for the Saharan people who are fighting for an independent Western Sahara and the country's activities in defending the objectives of the Nonaligned Movement. The president reiterated Zimbabwe's total support to the struggling masses of South Africa and to SWAPO, the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people.

In reply Comrade Bendjedid pledged his country's readiness to help Zimbabwe in its development efforts. He said his visit to Zimbabwe was testimony of the similarity of the struggles waged by the two countries. He stated that from his own country's experience problems facing Zimbabwe after the war should be appreciated. Comrade Bendjedid added that Zimbabwe has already made great progress in the short lapse of time since independence. He praised the heroic role played by the prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, during the liberation struggle and paid tribute to the statesmanship with which he has guided the country since independence. Turning to the problems caused by racist South Africa, Comrade Bendjedid condemned the illegal occupation of Namibia by the Pretoria regime. He said racism must be immediately eradicated in South Africa. President Bendjedid criticized the Pretoria regime for wrecking the recent Geneva talks on Namibia and called on African states to unite in their condemnation of the racist regime. He also condemned Zionist Israel for denying the Palestinian people their right to self-determination and independence.

Today, Comrade Bendjedid will meet diplomats from OAU member states and will also lay a wreath at Heroes' Acre before leaving Salisbury in the afternoon.

CUBAN DELEGATION RECEIVED BY FOREIGN MINISTER

FL281609 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1503 GMT 28 Mar 81

[Text] The foreign minister of Zimbabwe, Witness Mangwende, has received a delegation from Cuba headed by Ambassador Ulises Estrada and including the Cuban ambassador in Salisbury, Teofilo Acosta, and Counselor Colmon Ferrer. Acosta presented the Zimbabwean foreign minister with a personal gift from the foreign minister of Cuba, Isidoro Malmierca. Mangwende expressed gratitude for the gift.